



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
FIRE RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 24, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**1/2021 through 12/2021
Cumulative Attendance**

Board Member	Attendance	Present	Absent
Douglas Meade, Chair	P	4	1
Frank Snedaker, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Mark Booth	P	3	1
Raymond Dettmann	P	5	0
Patrick Dirindin	P	5	0
Don Larson	P	4	1
Charles Tatelbaum	P (by Zoom)	3	2
John Vratsinas	P	4	0

Staff

Irina Tokar, Senior Project Manager
Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

- **Roll Call**

Roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present. Mr. Tatelbaum attended the meeting via Zoom video.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **May 27, 2021**

Motion made by Mr. Larson, seconded by Mr. Dettman, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2021 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Staff Liaison Report

Senior Project Manager Irina Tokar asked if anyone had any comments regarding the Fire Bond Expenditures Report. There were no comments.

- **Project Status – Fire Station #8**

Ms. Tokar reported that a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) had been issued by the City on March 23, 2021. The Fire Rescue Department has moved into the building and is operating from this facility. The Contractor is redoing the epoxy floor coating throughout the fire station and refinishing the fire bay flooring. This work began on June 21st and is expected to be completed within two weeks. Ms. Tokar explained that this work is at no cost to the City due to the poor quality of the original installation. Ms. Tokar further explained that the original floor finish was difficult to clean, was slippery, and after a short time looked like it had been there for many years. Unfortunately, employees had to be relocated for two weeks during the refinishing due to the strong odor.

Fire Chief Bacic added that so far the new flooring is much better than the previous flooring, and it looks amazing.

Ms. Tokar advised that the traffic signalization agreement to coordinate with the adjacent railway crossing as required by the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) has been authorized. This is expected to begin shortly and be completed by the end of August, 2021.

- **Project Status – Fire Station #13**

Ms. Tokar advised that the architectural consultant, ACAI Associates, Inc., is working on the design development of the four-bay, back-in fire station selected for the site. City staff is working with ACAI on further design development of the proposed layout, exterior elevations, and Heating-Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) system selection. The project design is progressing as planned and on schedule.

Ms. Tokar stated that City staff submitted a grant application to the Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Program (GIP), but have not yet heard back on that submission as well as a second grant submission. The City Manager has included \$3.9 Million in General Funds in the preliminary community investment plan for Fire Station #13 in order to complete the design and construction.

Ms. Tokar said that the target date for construction is May 2022, pending the appropriation of the necessary funding on October 1, 2021, with the adopted budget.

Vice Chair Snedaker asked if Ms. Tokar was referring to breaking ground, and she explained that October 1st is the target date for getting funding. She further confirmed that construction was expected to begin in May, 2022. Ms. Tokar explained that it was not expected that permitting would be difficult. Vice Chair Snedaker felt it was aggressive to expect to complete construction drawings, obtain permits, bid the job, and then break ground, all in ten months' time.

Chair Meade expressed that he would rather the approach to the project be aggressive than delayed.

- **Project Status – Temporary Fire Station #13**

Ms. Tokar announced that this project is funded through other sources in addition to the Fire Bond. The project is on schedule and currently in the bidding phase. She further explained that the bidding was postponed to June 30th due to issuance of addendums and requested site visits. Ms. Tokar advised that this project had to be postponed one more week because engineering had to provide addendums with revised drawings. The projected construction start date of August, 2021 is aggressive, but the completion of the fire station had been postponed.

Fire Chief Bacic added that demolition of the fire station would not occur until the project is ready to begin. He recalled an experience with Fire station #47 where staff moved into a trailer, the existing fire station was demolished, and new construction was delayed for two years. However, he said that while this is his preference, he will do whatever needs to be done to support the project moving forward. His preference was to spend the shortest amount of time possible in the trailer.

Ms. Tokar explained that it had been recommended that an archeologist be present during excavation.

Mr. Booth asked if this temporary fire station was being funded through other sources. Ms. Tokar said the temporary fire station takes up one-third of the site, and the parking two-thirds. Mr. Booth asked how much funding was coming from other sources for temporary fire station 13 and Ms. Tokar advised that it was close to \$1 Million.

Ms. Tokar confirmed that the plan was not to demolish the existing fire station 13, as it is going to be part of the project's overall conception of the new fire station, and that the trailer and canopy will be moved to the site.

Vice Chair Snedaker recalled that when temporary fire station #54 was built, the City had to install parking and landscaping. He asked if that would have to be removed in building temporary fire station 13, or would it stay in place. Ms. Tokar said she believed the person handling this indicated they wanted to buy the chain link fence on the site, and that they don't seem to want the City to make any improvements. Ms. Tokar added that, according to preliminary discussions, they had looked at removing the chain link fence and gates, but it was determined not to be cost effective.

IV. Proposed Next Meeting in August

Chair Meade announced that it was being proposed to cancel this Committee's July meeting and to meet next in August.

Motion made by Mr. Larson, seconded by Mr. Dettman, to approve canceling the July, 2021 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Meade confirmed the next meeting would take place on **August 26, 2021**.

Ms. Tokar asked the Board if they would like to see the plans for temporary fire station #13, and it was agreed by Board consensus.

Vice Chair Snedaker asked Chief Bacic how staff liked the air conditioning system in fire station #8, realizing that it hasn't been operational that long yet. Chief Bacic informed the Committee that as of now there were no complaints. He admitted that the focus had been on some of the other ancillary issues that had to be tweaked and improved.

As to the air conditioning system, Chief Bacic explained that each room had its own unit and that each room's air was being cycled, cooled, and put right back into the same room. He felt this was especially beneficial with relation to dealing with Covid-type issues.

Ms. Tokar said that it was a DX system with multiple units on the inside, where each individual room's environment can be controlled separately. She admitted that the maintenance crews were not yet as familiar with this system as with the chilled water system, and the DX system did not provide full redundancy. Mr. Dirindin added that he felt it was an excellent system and that hospitals have been using it for years.

Chair Meade asked if this system was going to be used again, and Ms. Tokar responded that while the DX system so far is very successful, they would prefer to use a chilled water system for fire station 13. She said that while the chilled water system is initially more expensive to install, maintenance was cheaper and easier. Also, she said they wanted to provide full redundancy, which was not available with the DX system. Ms. Tokar advised that she would be meeting with Chief Bacic and the consultant the next day and she would be recommending the chilled water system.

Chief Bacic advised that they were looking into needlepoint ionization built into the air returns, which will kill 99% of germs. Mr. Dirindin said that it was cheaper than filters and would provide more air flow. Chief Bacic added that with needlepoint ionization, it is difficult for mold to grow.

Mr. Larson stated that he has noticed a lot of construction going on within the City, and asked if the City can implement a fee with new construction that would assist with matters that come before this Committee. Chair Meade expressed that it doesn't fall under the purview of this Committee since it was tasked to just monitor the Bond Issue. He believed that such fees would have to be a very specific requirement by erecting a building and would have to be local to that building.

Mr. Dettman inquired as to whether it was ever discussed at any Commission meeting. It was Vice Chair Snedaker's belief that previous Commissions had discussed this, but that the current Commission had not. Ms. Tokar's recollection was that it was discussed and they said they would look into it. After Committee discussion, Mr. Dirindin said that he would go before the Commission to bring this matter to their attention.

There was a discussion as to whether there was a system in place for approving new construction where the Fire Department would weigh in on whether it would be able to provide adequate fire rescue services for the future occupants of new buildings. Chief Bacic advised that every single employee on the street are cross-trained as firefighters and as paramedics, and that this is the standard of care for South Florida. Chief Bacic added that the greatest cost they face is the ongoing funding for staff.

Chair Meade suggested that Committee members prepare a memo to be discussed at the August meeting and requested that it be added to the Agenda under new business. He further encouraged every member to contact their Commissioner directly. Mr. Dirindin expressed that the City Commission should implement a fire rescue services impact fee, since the fire rescue asset should be expanded as more people join the City.

V. Adjournment

The next meeting is August 26, 2021.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Attachments: Additional Documentation – Exhibits

(Minutes prepared by B. Chiappetta, Prototype-Inc.)