

Holt Fire District Commission Meeting Minutes

PLACE: Holt Fire Station, 483 Hwy 90 W, Holt, FL

DATE and TIME of MEETING: 11 April 2023/1835 hours

ATTENDANCE: Jim Connors, Roger Meyers, Stephanie Holcombe, Dick Russell, Darry Childs, Fire Chief Scott Chestnut, Capt. Shelly Chestnut, Danielle Barrow

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

VISITORS: Nathan Boyles

EMERGENCY RESPONSES: 142 CALLS AS OF 11 April 2023

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Meeting minutes from March 2023 were reviewed and approved. Financial report was reviewed and approved for the month of March 2023.

STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS – (Open for Monthly Status Update)

a. Vehicles:

QR-31 – Good, on battery tender. Deputy Chief using, New battery/starter replaced
CH-31 – Good, having issues but working. Just got it out of the shop: \$1,616 for repairs.
Commissioners approved \$1,800 to cover repair costs. All lights and siren went out
DC-32 – Good; overheated again due to bad thermostat and head gasket, board approved \$3,000 to repair. Being put back together – Finished in February, still working
Engine 31 – Is very weak; pump packing leaking, est. cost to fix \$3,500, not fixing it; passed pump test; top speed is 50 mph and must be escorted with command vehicle trailing when on I-10. It has been moved to the main station.
Engine 32 – Good, PM completed
Engine 33 – Good, PM completed, went over budget due to pump packing replacement
AC-33 – Selling
Support 31 – Selling
Brush 31 – Good, running in place of QR 31; 2 fittings burst during freeze, \$500 to fix
OCW Engine – Working. Putting a list of items needed; will get quotes to begin purchasing needed equipment. Need 6 batteries, board approved spending \$1500. Adding lettering E-31 on road in March.
Donated Tahoe – Will be used as a take-home vehicle to meet response times; insured and licensed

b. Equipment: May 5th – Hose and ladder testing, estimated cost \$2924.

c. Volunteer Membership: 18 volunteers – 13 firefighters, FFI certified, 5 support staff.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fundraising – Schedule

1) Donation Letter	TBD	\$
2) Rib Sale	10/11 Feb. 2023	\$1800
3) Rib Sale	May 2023	\$
4) Rib Sale	Oct 2022	\$1,565
5) Gun Raffle	31 Oct 2022	\$4,000

- b. Mr. Connors: The District still needs to establish a Capital Property List over \$5,000—one for property costing \$100-4,999.99 and a list of disposable supplies under \$100. Waiting on tags. The District will be doing a complete inspection of the vehicles, equipment and gear. Still working (Open)
- c. Mr. Connors: A motion was made and adopted to allow Mr. Connors to talk to a real estate lawyer on the current Fire District's property lines to ensure they are properly marked. Called a lawyer; need to have a survey completed. Ms. Holcombe to contact surveyor. Work in progress. (Open)
- d. Chief Chestnut: The District applied for several grants. We will submit a grant for 2-3 more sets of gear after the previous gear grant is finalized. (Continuing)
 - 1) Grant-writing company (John Storm) will assist with a First Response AFG grant for a new truck and three smaller grants, including a Firehouse Subs grant for battery-powered extraction equipment (cutter, spreader, rams) costing approximately \$25,000. He's trying to loop the vehicle and extraction tools in one grant of about \$300,000. Everything submitted; check received \$400k grant working 2nd week in November.
 - 2) Three grants have been approved:
 - 1. State assistance 100% grant was approved for \$45,060 to purchase 5 SCBAs, 10 bottles and 5 masks. These will be paid when the State gives us the check. 10 bottles and 5 mask delivered.
 - 2. State cancer 75% grant was approved for \$2,925 to purchases gloves and hoods. We have to pay 25% of this grant. Completed
 - 3. Division of Forestry 50-50 grant was approved for two sets of bunker gear (\$8,073.76, 30 weeks out on shipping) , sets came in, will put in a request/grant for 3 more setsThe total of all three grants is \$69,424.52. Of this, we must pay \$6,964.13. Received hose.
- e. Chief Chestnut: Request the Board review the Departments Charter with an attorney to evaluate the possibility of generating funding through legally allowed increases to the fees and assessments and the possibility of finding unknown funding avenues allowed under Florida Law in reference to special districts. Update: Documents were found. (Open)
- f. Mr. Connors: Sponsorships began 1 January 2023. Sponsorship closeout for 2023 is 1 April. The three rib sale sponsors will be credited for this year. Ms. Holcombe will set up a sponsorship page on the HFD website and design new rib sale signs to be printed by Hart Printing in Crestview. There will be four signs: three directional and one for in front of the station. (Open)
- g. Chief Chestnut: There are a number of new businesses coming to Holt. We need to be ahead of the game on assessments and impact fees. (Open)
- h. Chief Chestnut: Requested to replace the active 911 program with Flow MSP. It functions like Active 911 with the additional feature of pre-fire planning function. Cost would be \$600 a year with unlimited access vs \$300 a year for Active 911 with limited device addons. A motion was made and adopted to approve the purchase of Flow MSP for \$600 for 1 year of service. Everything needed is in to get it up and working. Setting up (Open)
- i. Mr. Connors: Signed a contract to complete the state mandated performance audit for \$25,000. This will be completed by the end of June. The state is requiring a performance audit every 5 years. Cost for the audit will be borrowed from the impact fund. (Open)
- j. Chief Chestnut: Requested for Howard Peak to attend the Firefighter II bridge class. Motion was made and adopted to pay for books, uniforms and fuel. If he passes successfully the Tuition will also be paid by the department. (Open)

- k. Chief Chestnut: Emerald Coast Realtors donated \$500 to go toward a new Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC). Motion was made and approved to use \$1,000 from the impact account to purchase the TIC. Need to purchase the TIC. Motion made and adopted to increase the amount to \$1300 to purchase TIC.
- l. Mr. Connors: Received a legal opinion from the lawyer regarding increasing impact fees for commercial properties. Because the District raised impact fees in 2022, we cannot raise those fees again for four years. Impact fees can only be increased every four years. Additionally, any impact fees raised cannot go toward paying for the new fire station because it is already a project in progress.
- m. Mr. Connors: Mr. Connors and Ms. Holcombe worked on a request for additional funds from the state of Florida. They completed and turned in a new funding request worksheet to Rep. Rudman's office with a requested amount of \$980,000.
- n. Mr. Connors: Ed Chapman, the new auditor, will meet with Danielle and Shelly to go over what's needed for the audit. He will spot-check receipts in the Big Red Book. Sent information, still working.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mr. Connors: A motion was made and adopted to approve non-recurring transactions for the month of March.
- b. Mr. Connors: Any check more than \$5,000 must have two signatures.
- c. Mr. Connors: Assessments for fiscal year 2024 will increase by 6.3356%. Vacant parcels will increase to \$43.27 and 10 cents per vacant acre, residential property will increase to \$65.43, commercial property will increase to \$98.31. A second reading was conducted for FY 2024 assessments increase.
- d. Mr. Connors: Impact fees will be increasing for commercial property; 50 a square foot and will take out heated and cooled wording starting 1 July 2023
- e. Ms. Holcombe: Created rib sale sign templates for review, will be purchasing 5 signs and will need the tax exempt certificate.
- f. Fire Chief Chestnut: The gear washer was installed, the department purchased 2 new computers and a secured file cabinet.

NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT and AJOURNMENT: The next Holt Fire District commission meeting will be held 9 May 2023 at 1830 hours at the fire station. The meeting was adjourned at 1953 hours.

Jim Connors
Chairperson, Holt Fire District Commission

Attachments:
March Financial Report
Signed Nonrecurring transaction letter