

Holt Fire District Commission Meeting Minutes

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

DATE and TIME of MEETING: 13 June 2023/1830 hours

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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

VISITORS:

EMERGENCY RESPONSES: 239 CALLS AS OF 13 June 2023

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

Engine 32 – Good

Engine 33 – Good

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 – In Service. 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, completed for \$3300 on 1 June 2023.

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	\$3724
4) Rib Sale	Oct 2022	\$1,565
5) Gun Raffle	31 Oct 2022	\$4,000
6) Picture Fundraiser	June 2023	\$1700

- 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) 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)
- e. Chief Chestnut: There are a several new businesses coming to Holt. We need to be ahead of the game on assessments and impact fees. (Open)
- f. 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)
- g. 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)
- h. 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)
- i. 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.
- j. Mr. Connors: Assessments for fiscal year 2024 will increase by 6.3356%. Vacant parcels will increased to \$43.27 and 10 cents per vacant acre, residential property will increased to \$65.43, commercial property will increase to \$98.31. A second reading was conducted for FY 2024 assessments increase.
- k. 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

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mr. Connors: A motion was made and adopted to approve non-recurring transactions for the month of May.
- b. Mr. Connors: A motion was made and adopted to pay off the credit card bill of \$14,484.90 and future bills will be paid off monthly. Check was mailed.
- c. Mr. Connors: 2022 audit completed, and State accepted. There were two write ups, failed to put in the minutes a vote on giving a donation to firefighters whose house burned down and the budget was not amended properly.
- d. Mr. Connors: Julie Wilson said the vacant land tax doesn't apply to increases. The increases to residential and commercial property were approved and will go out with trim notices
- e. Chief Chestnut: Need to purchase new hose after testing will put in a 50/50 grant through DoF for 5 sections of LDH and 2 sets of bunker gear.
- f. Chief Chestnut: Solar farm falls under our provision as a special commercial property. Need to set an annual tax of \$1000 an acre.
- g. Chief Chestnut: Did a rodeo standby for a bull bash. \$125 will go to the operations account and \$125 to the fundraiser account.
- h. Chief Chestnut: Josh Rainey would like to put an ice machine on 490 US90 fire department property. A motion was made and adopted to charge him \$500 a month and he would be responsible for electric and water bills.
- i. Mr. Connors: A motion was made and adopted to have Ms. Stephanie Holcombe contact a cost recovery company on behalf of the Holt Fire Department
- j. Chief Chestnut: Photo fundraiser going well, will end 14 June 2023
- k. NEXT MEETING ANNOUCEMENT and AJOURNMENT: The next Holt Fire District commission meeting will be held 11 July 2023 at 1830 hours at the fire station. The meeting was adjourned at 1957 hours.

Jim Connors
Chairperson, Holt Fire District Commission

Attachments:
May Financial Report
Signed Nonrecurring transaction letter