

FIRE-RESCUE BOND
 BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MINUTES
 REGULAR MEETING
 City of Fort Lauderdale
 100 North Andrews Avenue
 Commission Chambers
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
 April 20, 2006

Board Members	Meeting Attendance	Cumulative Attendance from 01/19/2006	
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	P-3	A-0
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	P	P-2	A-1
Mary Graham	P	P-3	A-0
Allan A. Kozich	A	P-2	A-1
Patrick McTigue	P	P-3	A-0
Douglas Ruth	P	P-3	A-0
Guido Teichner	A	P-1	A-2
Don Bastedo	P	P-3	A-0
Norman W. Thabit	P	P-2	A-1

Staff

Robert Bacic, Battalion Chief
 Albert Carbon, Director, Public Works Department
 Frank Snedaker, Chief City Architect
 David Carter, Union Representative Engine 46
 Mina Samadi, Engineering Design Manager
 Fernando Blanco, Acting Airport Engineer

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Jarrett called the April 20, 2006 meeting of the Fire-Rescue Blue Bond Ribbon Committee to order at 6:08 p.m. A quorum was achieved with eight committee members present.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2006

The minutes of the February 16, 2006 meeting were reviewed.

Norman Thabit advised that he had been present at the January meeting, but did not attend the February meeting.

Motion made by Douglas Ruth and seconded by Norman Thabit to approve the minutes as corrected of the February 16, 2006 meeting.

In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Staff Liaison Report

A. Activities over the past month

i. Architect's Scope of Services

Mr. Carbon advised that PGAL (Pierce Goodwin Alexander & Linville) had been selected as the architects for the project, but they have not yet confirmed what station they would begin working on.

ii. Updated Schedule

Fire Station 53, the Battalion EOC at Executive Airport, bids will be due May 3, 2006. In regard to Station 47, an advertisement would appear in the newspaper next Thursday. There has been a final preliminary review of the layout for Station 29, and final plans would be prepared. Meetings will be scheduled with the following associations in connection with Fire Station 29: Poinsettia Heights Civic Association, Lauderdale Isles Civic Association, Bal Harbour Homeowners Association, and Lake Ridge Residents' Association. Frank Snedaker explained that a map would also be provided showing the location of those associations.

Frank Snedaker, City Architect, stated that an environmental assessment was received from EE&G, Environmental Consultant, and they are ready to put out the bid for the environmental work. It would require excavation of areas under the proposed new structure. Clean-up costs were estimated for the project between \$200,000 and \$250,000. Once digging begins determination on how far down to go.

It was asked if the Fire Department had decided what they were going to do with the crew. The Fire Department stated that they were still in the process of reviewing various options.

Mary Graham asked if EE&G's report was available for review. Mr. Snedaker confirmed. Ms. Graham stated that the fill would have to be brought back in after the clean up, and therefore, asked if there would be sufficient time for such work to be done in the time frame provided. Mr. Snedaker explained that the consultant believed that the decontamination could be done in 30-45 days after site preparation. Ms. Graham asked for a copy of the report. Mr. Snedaker stated that copies would be sent to the Committee Members.

Mr. Carbon stated that for Station 13, staff is looking at the possibility of moving it slightly to the west, which would still be within Birch State Park's property. Staff spoke with representatives from the State who felt this was a good idea, which would allow them to use the same access point, and build the new station while the existing one was still operational. He advised that the existing parking lot would provide parking for the new station.

Ms. Graham asked if they already had a permit for Station 53. Mr. Carbon confirmed. The only comments made by the Building Department were in connection with shop drawings and spec pages that the contractor would address when pulling the permit. It was stated that the fire sprinkler drawings were the holdup.

A question was asked about the URS contract that had been approved at the March 8th meeting. Mr. Carbon advised the contract was approved in March, and URS already had a task order to do both Stations 53 and 47. Work had already been begun and a pre-bid conference had been held last week. Plans had also been reviewed.

It was asked if the figure mentioned in the minutes was for one station or for a scope of services for several stations. Mr. Carbon explained that figure encompassed two stations, and he reminded the Committee that the budget had been for \$860,000.

B. Activities scheduled for the next month.

Mr. Carbon reported that regarding Fire Station 13 they would be working with the Parks Department, and they would be awarding Station 53 and putting Station 47 out to bid. Those projects would be scheduled for June meetings at the homeowners associations. Depending on what occurs at Station 13, they would be able to move forward regarding Station 3 at any time. They are also looking for property in the southeast and were considering four different sites at this time. One of those sites was located between Third and Andrews. It was asked if the site at 403 SE 12th Street was considered. The property would be checked. Another site at 918 S Andrews Avenue consisting of 29,000 sq. ft. was to be considered.

It was asked if the avenue was closed off to the hospital. Chief Bacic explained that the hospital was no longer pursuing the property for a parking structure. In speaking to the Fire Department, they preferred being closer to the New River. They felt it would be ideal to be north of Davie, but at least preferred to be north of 17th.

4. Member Discussion Items

It was asked if anyone had been selected as Fire Chief. There has been a search placed on the web and currently applications are being accepted. It was asked how the personnel felt at this time regarding the progression of the projects. Chief Bacic stated that things were positive and as they moved forward excitement would build.

David Carter, Union Representative, said that the membership is happy when they are made aware of what was occurring, but the major problem was that they are not being kept abreast of the situation. Then rumors begin and problems ensue. Information needs to be put out and a timeline would be helpful.

It was stated that the plans for Station 29 had been widely distributed. Changes were made and the stations would "mimic" each other, and all requirements are being met. It was asked if the Union was happy with the proposed changes. Mr. Carter stated that a review would be made of the final layout, and they were pleased with the 97' bays that would enable them to put two basics and engines back-to-back.

It was asked about the status of another temporary station. Chief Bacic explained that was part of URS's scope of work. They had finished reviewing the plans for Station 53, and part of their scope was to get a commercial grade temporary station. The stations they were presently working on did not require temporary stations. The next station would probably be Station 46.

It was asked if they were attempting to coordinate the temporary station. Chief Bacic explained they wanted to purchase a new one, along with a commercial grade one. He further stated that phase would not begin until spring.

The construction management contract came within the budget. It was asked if that was a not-to-exceed contract. Mr. Carbon explained it was not-to-exceed in regard to time and materials. The reserve involved the length of time and no contingencies were being set aside.

It was asked what type of interest was being accumulated in the overall bond fund. Mr. Carbon stated that it was the average of the City's portfolio, and he was not sure what that was since everything was pooled together. Such information could be provided at next month's meeting. Normally, interest is only applied on an annual basis.

It appeared the land price for the southeast station was doubling, and therefore, might not be acquired for the amount included in the budget, which was \$2 Million. It was suggested that they attempt to re-establish with the hospital that location even though it was located in the southernmost portion of the area. The satellite station needs slightly over 30,000 sq. ft., and the battalion station required approximately one acre. Therefore, they were reviewing what properties the City owned, and what properties were owned by other agencies. Possible co-use was being reviewed with the hospital, along with other options being considered. They also had to check to see what private properties were available. Board expressed major concern over property price and the need to purchase soon.

It was asked if comments were being generated regarding savings to be rolled into the drawings for Station 53. Also, once the bids were due would they be making the changes desired into the drawings. It was also asked if the contract for Station 53 would be signed before the Commission breaks in August. Mr. Carbon stated that comments made regarding 53's plans were included as an addendum. The pre-qualifications would be updated if necessary for the other stations.

It was asked if the new building would be built as high as the old one at 29. Mr. Snedaker explained that it would probably be higher than the older one.

Overhead costs were to be reported by the Internal Auditor in regard to whether or not the Public Works Department would be allowed to charged the bond fund for administration costs. He stated that the 17% would not be charged until further notice. Mr. Carbon further stated that the bond was \$40 Million and not \$42.8 Million. The spreadsheet also included monies the Airport had available from FDOT and the FAA, along with the Airport Enterprise Fund.

It was asked who would be the person to approach in the City regarding the sale of the property on Sunrise Boulevard, and putting those monies toward the project. Mr. Carbon stated that they first had to make sure it was surplus property, and then when the General Fund CIP sold the property, part of the agreement between the Fire Department and the CIP was that the revenue from the cost of the property would go back into the CIP. It was stated that possibly that could be an incentive in regard to land swaps also. It was requested that status reports be provided at next months meeting.

It appeared that construction costs were very high in southern Florida, and the hurricanes had an impact. Mr. Carbon reiterated that they needed to move forward and get all the stations done.

Mr. Carbon explained that Station 49 would not be a "cookie cutter" station because of property and parking issues involved, along with site limitations. He advised that ocean rescue would also be involved, and secured parking must also be provided at that site for fire personnel. He added that Station 35 would also be a unique station.

Chief Bacic stated that the crew operating out of the Station at Bahia Mar uses the old boat as back up, and an engine and rescue unit were also located at that station. The TRT team responded to things such as high-angle rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, dive rescue and fireboat operations. The fireboat would be housed behind the actual station. Depending on the type of call coming in, it would determine whether the entire rescue company and engine crew would respond. Whenever the fire boat responds to a call, land units would also respond from the land side.

It was asked if there was any land in the jurisdiction of Port Everglades that could be provided toward the fire station. Chief Bacic explained that once they were to the Port, they would be west of the 17th Street Bridge, and they wanted to be east of the bridge. If they go west, the station would be hampered by the bridge response.

Mr. Jarrett stated that something to keep in mind regarding that station was that the fireboat at the seawall did not have any personal gear in it, and equipment had to be taken from the station. The equipment taken by each fireman weighed approximately 85 pounds. It would make a difference if a secured boathouse could be incorporated into the station, and therefore, the boat would be equipped and ready to go out on calls. This was something to be discussed in the future.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:23 p.m.