

**FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33301
July 16, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.

Board Member	Attendance	1/2009 through 12/2009 Cumulative Attendance*	
		P	A
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	6	0
Frank Anderson [6:53]	P	3	0
Don Bastedo	P	5	1
Steve Kirsch	P	6	0
Allan Kozich	P	5	1
Patrick McTigue	P	5	1
June Page	P	6	0
Douglas Ruth	A	5	1

*Note: the Committee did not meet in January due to lack of a quorum

There are currently eight appointed members to the Committee. Therefore, five members constitute a quorum.

Staff

Albert Carbon, Public Works Director
Chantal Botting, Battalion Chief
Frank Snedaker, City Architect
Mark Friedman, City Construction Manager
Kirk Buffington, Director of Procurement
J. Opperlee, ProtoType Services Recording Clerk

Communications To City Commission

None

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Jarrett called the meeting of the Fire-Rescue Bond Blue Ribbon Committee to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: June 2009

Motion made by Mr. Kozich, seconded by Mr. McTigue, to approve the minutes as presented. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

3. Feasibility Report – Kirk Buffington

Mr. Kirk Buffington, Director of Procurement, reported that the City Commission had approved the feasibility study, and he and Mr. Carbon had discussed how to begin this process. The Board had been provided a template for a City Request for Proposal [RFP], and they now must develop a scope of work for the consultant.

Once the RFP was completed, Mr. Buffington explained it would be released for consideration to the consultant community for 20 to 30 days. Once the responses were received, the evaluation and selection committee performed a short-listing process. Mr. Buffington anticipated there would be 12 to 18 responses to this proposal.

Mr. Buffington stated that evaluation criteria for the RFP must be determined as well. He noted the cost criterion must have a 30% weight. Chair Jarrett believed the Commission wanted input from staff and the Board, since they had requested the feasibility report. He felt the Commission wanted this accomplished as soon as possible, but noted that the Commission would be on vacation in August. Mr. Buffington informed the Board that the ordinance required that a competitive solicitation must be out and available for response for a five-day minimum. The more complicated the solicitation, the longer it should be kept available for replies. Mr. Buffington stated the Board and staff would develop the RFP and this required no further approval from the Commission.

Mr. Carbon anticipated the recommendation would be made to the City Commission in October or November.

Chair Jarrett stated the Board could make recommendations this evening for issues that should be covered by the RFP. Staff could then evaluate this and bring it back to the Board for approval at their next meeting.

Mr. Carbon stated they must go with “what Commission really requested”, which he stated was “a feasibility study for two fire stations.” Chair Jarrett disagreed, and Mr. Kirsch said the Commission had requested a feasibility study of three fire stations as well as future fire stations. Mr. Carbon said the Commission had given direction “to go on 8, 46 and 35.” Chair Jarrett said the feasibility study should include “all fire stations,

for the entire City...” He said he had played the video of the Commission meeting several times to be sure this was the Commission's wish.

Chief Botting had requested minutes from the City Commission meeting. She recommended the Board create the project scope, and if the Commission minutes revealed the Commission wanted a smaller scope of work, it could be adjusted accordingly.

Ms. Page wondered if there would be much point in doing a study on only three stations. Chair Jarrett believed not, and said the study was to consider the needs of the City Fire Department in the years to come, including, as Commissioner Roberts specifically stated, areas that were not addressed by the Fire Bond, such as the Northwest and annexed areas. Commissioner Rodstrom wanted other areas not addressed in the Fire Bond considered in the feasibility study as well. Mr. Kirsch had watched the video of the Commission meeting several times and agreed with Chair Jarrett.

Mr. Carbon said they were moving forward with Station 46 design and with Station 8 design and purchase. He had understood that unless directed by the Commission, they were not to move forward regarding Stations 13 and 54 until the feasibility study was completed. Mr. Kirsch had understood that the feasibility study would include Stations 54, 13, 8 and all future stations, including those to be located in potential annexed areas.

Mr. Snedaker thought the Commission had directed them to find the land and move forward with Station 8. Mr. Kirsch said the Commission had directed them to buy the land but that Station 8 should also be included in the feasibility study.

Mr. Carbon said he had heard the Commission direct that they should go forward on Station 8, but not go forward with Stations 13 and 54 until the feasibility study was complete.

Mr. Friedman said the Fire Bond Committee had jurisdiction over ten fire stations. They were now discussing future annexed areas, which he believed were outside the Board's purview. Chair Jarrett agreed that the ten stations had been their original jurisdiction, but that the City Commission had given them additional direction.

Chair Jarrett remembered that Commissioners had discussed future stations that had not been included in the Fire Bond and he had cautioned them that therefore the Fire Bond money could not be used to perform the feasibility study. He said the Mayor had been clear that the feasibility study would address the future fire station needs of the

City. Chair Jarrett believed that performing a feasibility for only three stations would be a waste of money.

Chair Jarrett said the issue was that three Fire Chiefs had provided three different versions of what should be done. Commissioner Rogers had specifically mentioned that in his position as City Commissioner, three different people had provided him with three different opinions. This was why Commissioner Rogers wanted an outside consultant.

Mr. Buffington agreed to email examples of RFPs to Board members and reminded them to consider the scope and the evaluation criteria.

Mr. Carbon asked Board members to email all of their suggestions for the feasibility study to him and he would assemble them for the Board to discuss at their next meeting. Chair Jarrett asked for staff suggestions as well.

4. Staff Liaison Report

Station 29

Mr. Friedman stated in approximately one week Station 29 would be dried in. Chair Jarrett asked if any additional change order issues had arisen. Mr. Friedman said there was a pending \$45,000 change order, but no future issues on the horizon. Change order percentage at Station 29 was small and Mr. Friedman was very pleased with progress and workmanship.

Station 49

Mr. Friedman said they had come out of the ground at Station 49. Mr. Carbon said there was a pending change order regarding an underground storage tank that had been removed without removing surrounding soil. The soil removal work had been done but they were still negotiating the final cost.

Station 3

[At 6:53 Mr. Anderson arrived]

Mr. Friedman reported the footings had been poured for Station 3 and they were currently trenching for the utilities. Ms. Page asked why there was more than \$1 million coming out of the General Fund for Station 3. Mr. Carbon explained that the City had encumbered all of the \$20 million in the Fire Bond that was issued to date. When the

contract for Station 3 was issued, they had requested the Commission encumber General Fund money for which they would reimburse themselves once future fire bonds were issued. In order to show the General Fund encumbrance, the City's Finance Department had added it to the Station 3 budget. This has been corrected in the program-related budget but not in the accounting system as yet.

Station 35

Mr. Carbon reported the land swap contracts would be on the City Commission's July 21 agenda.

Chair Jarrett asked if the ladder truck from Station 49 had gone to Station 35. Chief Botting stated the truck had gone from Station 49 to Station 13.

Mr. Carbon said the church was preparing to move their facilities and they hoped to be finished by September 1st.

Mr. Snedaker advised they would present Station 35 to the Planning and Zoning Board at their August 19 meeting.

Station 46

Mr. Carbon stated they were moving ahead with Station 46 and had received the CDBG funding.

Station 13

Mr. Carbon had received calls from State Parks requesting information on the FDOT acquisition of Sunrise Boulevard. He said FDOT had denied taking additional land for the widening of Sunrise Boulevard, but Mr. Carbon said he had documents proving this. He noted this disagreement should not cause any delays. The State had still not resolved matters with Antioch College.

Station 54

Mr. Carbon had heard nothing from the proposed developer. He said the developer intended to get his plans through DRC prior to continuing discussions with the City.

Station 8

Mr. Carbon had discussed properties with Commissioner Rogers the previous day and he would now discuss this with the Fire Department.

5. Committee Report to the City Commission

Chair Jarrett said he and other Board members had spent over 12 hours waiting for the Commission to discuss their report. He stated the discussion had been cut short because the Commission had another issue they wanted to discuss before their regular meeting. It was after 11 p.m. when the conference meeting was reconvened. Chair Jarrett said only one Commissioner had not endorsed the feasibility study: Commissioner DuBose. Commissioner Rogers had been adamant that the Southeast Station must go forward. Commissioner Roberts had strongly agreed the feasibility study was appropriate. Commissioner Rodstrom had pointed out the feasibility study should have been conducted at the beginning of the Fire Bond, and endorsed it. Mayor Seiler had achieved consensus from Commission members and laid out what should be done.

Chair Jarrett said the Commission had determined that Stations 35 and 46 should move forward. The Commission had asked Chair Jarrett about Station 35 and he had remarked that, "if it's three bays then it probably should go ahead." He had reconsidered this the following day and realized he had made a mistake saying it, because currently Station 35 had a ladder truck and rescue unit and an engine company and it used to be the Battalion Chief's location.

Chair Jarrett described how one could view recordings of the City Commission meetings from the City's web page. He explained that the debate regarding the Fire Bond had occurred at approximately 11 p.m. Chair Jarrett asked Board members to view the video themselves. He felt it was clear that Commissioner Rogers stated the Southeast Station must be built.

Chair Jarrett said the recommendation regarding expenditure of funds was clear to the Commission. He said one of the Commissioners had asked him how much more it would cost to complete the stations as originally planned and Chair Jarrett guessed approximately \$15 million.

Chair Jarrett had warned the Commission that Fire Bond funds could not be used for the feasibility study if it went beyond the original scope of the Fire Bond.

Ms. Page asked about the \$96,000 swap fee for the church land, and Mr. Snedaker said this fee would come out of the Fire Bond funds. He assumed the City Attorney had signed off on this. Chair Jarrett did not agree that this should come out of Fire Bond funds but added if the City Attorney approved it, he would not mention it again.

6. Member Discussion Items

Financial Reports

[This item was discussed out of order]

Ms. Page stated the spreadsheets for this month were fine, but noted that compared to the previous month, the total budget for every station had increased. Mr. Carbon examined the reports, and stated everything still totaled \$40 million. He agreed to contact Ms. Page to clarify the differences.

Ms. Page asked if Stations 47 and 53 could be segregated in the spreadsheets for clarity and Mr. Carbon agreed. Mr. Friedman agreed that these two Stations were closed out.

Davie Stimulus Funds

Chief Botting had investigated Davie's receipt of stimulus funds for Fire Stations and had discovered that their Police Department had received \$130,911 from the Justice Assistant Grant Formula Allocation; they had received nothing for the Fire Department.

Feasibility study

Chair Jarrett asked Board members to view the video of the Commission meeting prior to submitting their ideas for the feasibility study to Mr. Carbon. He said Commissioners had made suggestions to him for what should be included in the study. One had indicated Ocean Rescue should be included, since it was part of the Fire Department.

Chair Jarrett said the RFP must specify that the feasibility study would be completed within 90 days.

Chair Jarrett reminded members that the Fire-rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee was scheduled to sunset after five years but he did not believe this would happen.

Chair Jarrett asked for Board members' input regarding the feasibility study. Mr. Kirsch wanted Station 8 to be included in the study, even though he felt there was some "conflicting statements that came out of the Commission meeting." It made no sense to him to pursue purchasing the land. Even if the land were purchased soon, Chair Jarrett remarked that the feasibility study could be completed prior to a contract's being signed for construction of the Station. The study could therefore influence the size and design of Station 8, even though the City Commission had directed that they go ahead with it.

Chief Botting advised that if the City Commission had directed that they should move ahead with Station 8 and it should not be included in the feasibility study, then they must comply with the Commission's direction. Chair Jarrett felt the Commission had made it clear that advisory boards would no longer be ignored, and if the Board wanted Station 8 to be included in the feasibility study, they could suggest this to the Commission. Mr. Kirsch said the Commission's objective, in summary, was not to hold up any existing stations. He believed that including a Station in the feasibility study would not delay the Certificate of Occupancy.

Mr. Kozich believed the feasibility study could have an effect on the stimulus funds for which they had applied. After viewing the video of the Commission meeting, Mr. Anderson thought they were only including Stations 13, 54 and 8 in the study. Chair Jarrett said he had thought this as well, but a Commissioner had phoned him at 6:30 the following morning indicating this was not what was said. Mr. Kozich said they must wait for the City Attorney's opinion on this. Chair Jarrett reiterated that if the Board felt something should be included, they should approach the City Commission. Mr. Anderson thought Mayor Seiler had stated in his summation that "all the rest of them go forward, we focus on these three, get the feasibility study to make sure we build them to the correct sizes and specifications."

7. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Next regular meeting: August 20, 2009

Attachments:

Financial Report
Minutes – June 21, 2009
Fire Station Monthly Reports

Fire Rescue Blue Ribbon Committee
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Program schedule

[Minutes prepared by J. Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.]