BARRIER ISLAND FIRE SERVICE

ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Friday, January 30, 2026

9:30 A.M. Mac. V Horton West County Annex
Conference Room
6868 San Casa Drive
Englewood, FL 34224

Members Present: Candyce Cohen, Linda Cotherman, James Gordon, and Mark Healey.

County Staff: Deputy Chief Seneca, Tina Chavez, Megan Hamrick, and Dawn Johnston

Call to Order / Roll Call:
The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Changes to the Agenda/Motion to approve changes: No changes were made, and the agenda was approved.

Approval of April 25, 2025 and July 25, 2025 Minutes: April 25, 2025 and July 25, 2025 Minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizen Input on Agenda Items Only (3-Minute Limit): No citizens attended the meeting.

Financial Report Discussion: Megan Hamrick reviewed the Fund Financial Report – Quarter 1 (October 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025). There was discussion on Personnel Services, Assessment Type, and staffing.

Unfinished business:

- **Update on S. Gulf Blvd. access:** There was discussion on water utility line, unpaved road, Major Emergency Response Vehicle (MERV) usage, permits, emergency access, right-of-way (ROW), private property, Google map reroutes, bollards, Bocilla Utilities, water meter, and previous Fire Marshal visit. County staff will provide information at next meeting regarding if proper permits were pulled by Bocilla Utilities.
- **Open Vacancy:** Electronic copy of the MSBU/TU application was requested to be sent to the Board members.
- **Apparatus Replacement Updates:** There was discussion on MERV, apparatus 10 delivery, pushback ceremony, and when Engine 10 repayment begins.
- **Island Communication During Storms:** There was discussion on raising of hurricane warning flag when station's crew evacuates the island which serves as visual cue for island residents.
- **Station 10 Staffing Rotation:** There was discussion on Station 10 staff rotation with Fire Station 3, 3-month rotations for continuous training, and island familiarity.

New Business:

- **October 30, 2026 meeting date change:** Ms. Chavez proposed October 16, 2026 or November 6, 2026 for meeting date change due to early voting. November 6, 2026, was approved unanimously.

- **Discussion on potential Preserve address change:** Ms. Cotherman requested to have time to discuss at next Preserve Board meeting. There was discussion on name change will assist with emergency calls and break in street name.

Advisory Board Open Discussion: There was discussion on landscaping, conservancy, clean-up cost, native plants, cost savings, water bill, PH level, materials, and maintenance.

Items for the Next Agenda / Meeting April 24, 2026: Board requested that updates of apparatus 10 delivery, pushback ceremony, helicopter landing sites, and additional personnel for staffing rotation be added to next meeting agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Submitted by: Dawn Johnston

James Dyrdek Jr 4/24/2026

Chair Signature / Date