

April 19, 2016

The April meeting on April 19, 2016, was presided over by President Bill McDaniel with 16 people in attendance. President McDaniel introduced the new fire chief James Cunningham who is the chief of the newly merged North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District. Chief Cunningham gave a short presentation about himself and that the new station is located at the old maintenance fire station on the curve near Sanctuary Road. He added that the sign at the entrance has been changed to reflect this.

The annual election of officers and directors takes place every April, and this year it resulted in the same slate as the prior year: Bill McDaniel, President; Doug Wilson, Secretary, Nancy Wilson, VP and Treasurer, John Hinson, Director, and Maureen Bonness, Director.

Maureen Bonness gave a further explanation of the Rural Fringe Mixed Use District (RFMUD), which she had been following. This is a replanning issue by Collier County concerning which areas are to be in the Sending zone, which in Receiving and which in Neutral. Information about this complicated subject is posted on this website under "Land & Trees/Rural Fringe". Maureen explained the ramifications of the three options, each option has different rules. The reason for this replanning is because in 2004 the State told the County it must revise its plans in order to consider environmental protection. There is too much sprawl. The County came up with the idea of creating Receiving areas, Sending areas and Neutral areas. Because government can't just take away your property rights, they began a re-zoning map. A straw vote was taken to get a feel which option were preferred, and much discussion followed.

A discussion on water quality issues followed. The question about fracking was raised because a well was seen operating on Hogan Island. President Bill McDaniel, who has been involved in a number of civic councils, including the East of 951 meetings, and who himself owns a mine, gave more information about the subject of drilling.