WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION
BUDGET WORKSHOP

Minutes of April 18, 2023
Administration Building

The workshop began at 5:07 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop, Billy Burke, and Derrick Warner.

Chief Rigney welcomed everyone and stated that this is the time of year again to set the assessment rate for the next budget year. He thanked Finance Clerk (FC) Leissler and Staff for their hard work on this budget. He explained that the goal of this Workshop is to get direction from the Board on what assessment rate increase to bring back to the next meeting.

FC Leissler started going through our mid-year income. Commissioner Jennis asked if we would get 100% in tax receipts. FC Leissler and Chief Rigney explained we usually go over because we budget 96%. FC Leissler explained most of our income is right on track. Some outliers include Interest sitting at 925% and Insurance and FEMA Reimbursements. FC Leissler then went on to Expenses stating we are right on track for mid-year aside from overtime going over substantially due to Hurricane Ian deployments. FC Leissler went on to explain the McDonalds comparisons. He compared WMFR with other District's in terms of commercial and residential assessment rates. The commercial table showed WMFR is sitting above North River, but below Cedar Hammock, Southern Manatee, Englewood, and East Manatee. The residential table shows us below most assessment rates including Southern Manatee, Fort Myers Beach, Cedar Hammock, and East Manatee, but above Englewood and North River. FC Leissler then gave the floor back to Chief Rigney.

Chief Rigney began his presentation by stating that what he was showing included a 4% increase on top of the increased budget due to short term vacation rentals that will be switched from residential to commercial status. Chief Rigney stated that we will see an approximate $1.35 million increase due to short-term vacation rentals. Chief Rigney explained that the $1.35 million increase would pay for 9 new employees: one staff position who was already hired; two fire inspectors, one of which the Board approved to hire early; and six firefighters. He then stated that the 4% increase would go towards maintaining our level of service while also covering increases included in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Chief Rigney went on to speak about the Operating Expenses, noting that a lot of line items in Personnel Services will increase with the increase in employees. Some items went down like Longevity and Compensated Expenses. Chief Rigney noted that the District will be weaning out the Reserve Program due to high turnover, gear prices and gear turnaround times. He then mentioned Retiree Insurance Reimbursement and Retiree Insurance being a "wash" because retirees pay their premiums back to the District. Chief Rigney moved onto Maintenance and Repair noting that we may have better vehicle repair options soon with plans of having a mobile repair man. He also noted that Protective Gear Maintenance increased due to having to purchase gear for 8 new employees and possible extrication gear. Chief Rigney summarized the rest of the expenses and noted the plan for a Public Service Announcement to promote transparency to the Districts constituents.

Chief Rigney moved on to explaining Capital Outlay items including vehicle toppers, Ford F-150 for the fourth Inspector, cutters, spreaders, a new engine, an airbag kit and controller, simulators, and portables for a total of $851,775. He explained that new engines are taking roughly four years to be fabricated yet must be fully paid for upfront. Discussion ensued between Commissioner Bishop and Chief Rigney regarding so much taxpayer funds for no immediate tangible product. Commissioner Jennis asked the status of our air packs. Chief Rigney stated they were purchased in 2018 and have a shelf life of 15 years.

Chief Rigney began speaking about the Assigned Fund Balance. He stated Contingency was bumped up due to the increased budget. Chief Rigney stated Leave Liability is to prepare for retirements noting nine employees soon to be eligible in 2025/2026.

Chief Rigney went on to Vehicle Capital reviewing vehicles that are coming up for replacement. He spoke of other apparatus stating the budget is planning for the replacement based on typical vehicle lifetimes. He stated we do try to spread the lifetime out as much as possible. Chief Rigney clarified the $50,000 for the boat in 2029 saying it would be for motor replacements.

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Chief Rigney went through the Revenue tab highlighting the increase in Interest.

Lastly, Chief Rigney went into the Rate Options tab which compares different rate increase options. He stated his 4% recommendation again if we want to maintain our level of service. Discussion ensued between Commissioner Jennis and Chief Rigney regarding inflation and keeping up with the other districts in terms of wages. Chairman Bennett asked other districts are doing when it comes to raising assessments based on personal income growth (PIG). Chief Rigney stated that most have raised to the max PIG in the past. Chairman Bennett remarked that we usually stay at 4% and offer a higher service with ALS.

Chief Rigney reminded the Board that the Workshop is also included on the Agenda in New Business.

Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

(Seal)

WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
MANATEE COUNTY
2000
FLORIDA

WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of April 18, 2023
Administration Building

Special Presentations: Appreciation Award to the Annie Silver Community Center.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop, Billy Burke, and Derrick Warner. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

2021/2022 AUDIT PRESENTATION: Randy Dillingham and Bo Slemons presented the 2021/2022 Audit. They had no difficulties in communication with District staff, no disagreements, and no deficiencies. They expressed that the District was compliant, and it was a clean report. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the audit as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Warner motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Burke; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: Administrative Assistant Wright explained that Training Chief (TC) Tuttle taught a CPR class to residents of one of the trailer parks in the District. They were very pleased with the class and sent TC Tuttle a thank you card.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Short Term Vacation Rentals: Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski addressed the Board of Commissioners of Holmes Beach. The presentation went well. FM Kwiatkowski was asked by commissioners if our efforts would be hindered by currently proposed bills 714 and companion bill 833. FM Kwiatkowski stated they will not and there is nothing in either proposal that would affect our requirement to inspect TPLEs in accordance with FFPC and 69A-43. FM Kwiatkowski then briefly explained the bills and stated it will help WMFR achieve its goals by forcing governments to standardize regulations. FM Kwiatkowski informed the Board of his meeting with the Englewood Fire Chief and Fire Marshal. They plan to implement the same practices as WMFR immediately. FM Kwiatkowski informed the Board that his Florida Fire Service Magazine article, highlighting the District's commitment to keeping vacation rentals safe for guests and first responders, will be gaining national exposure in Mays edition of Firehouse Magazine. FM Kwiatkowski is scheduled to address the Boards of Bradenton Beach and the City of Anna Maria later on this month.

B. Banking and Investments: Chief Rigney stated we do not have an update on this topic at this time and recommended we remove it from the agenda until we do. Chairman Bennett agreed.

C. Hurricane Ian Property Damage: Chief Rigney informed the board that the door access system has been replaced. He recommended we remove this topic from the agenda until we have more updates.

D. Strategic Plan: Chief Rigney stated we do not have an update on this topic at this time and recommended we remove it from the agenda until we do.

E. Administrative Building Property: Commissioner Bishop explained that this will roll into the Strategic Plan. Commissioner Bishop said he doesn't want to rush this project given the current building climate. Commissioner Bishop recommended we remove this topic from the agenda until we have more updates.

F. Total Patient Care: Chief Rigney gave the floor to Deputy Chief (DC) Johnson. DC Johnson stated to the Board that he is actively investigating this topic. Along with reports and comparisons that he already has from our data, he is also waiting on public records requests from Manatee County EMS (MCEMS). The records request is for their response data from 2019 to now, not focusing much on 2019 and 2020 as that was during the pandemic. DC Johnson explained his comparison of two zip codes, 34216 (north end) and 34217 (south end) which are the Island codes. DC Johnson explained the difference between travel and response times. He gave average response times for both WMFR and MCEMS in 2021 and 2022. WMFRs 90th percentile response times, on average, were roughly 3 minutes shorter than MCEMS in the 34217 zone and 5 minutes shorter in the 34216 zone in 2021. He then went on to say that in 2023, year to date, the MCEMS 90th percentile average response time was 15:30 longer than WMFR's. He stated that the times he got for MCEMS came from the BI. DC Johnson then highlighted high acuity incidents where MCEMS's 90th Percentile response time was 17:17. He ended his presentation with MCEMS's average transport time which was 20

minutes. Chairman Bennett commended the work put into the study. Commissioner Warner stated he has been tracking incidents for the past week and noticed so many terrible calls. He went on to say of course no one wants to wait 17 minutes. Commissioner Warner said we are doing everything we can except taking the patient to the hospital. Commissioner Burke said great job on the presentation. Chairman Bennett reiterated that this shows how beneficial it is for the District to provide ALS.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Budget Workshop Continuation: The workshop left off with the Board discussing what rate increase to have Staff bring back in a resolution. Chief Rigney's recommendation was a 4% increase. Commissioner Burke asked about the unknowns that come with budgeting. Chief Rigney stated there are some items that are hard to predict like property insurance possibly going up 40% or work comp being higher than expected, however, we have luckily had reserves to pull from. Commissioner Jennis then praised Staff for their ability to forecast and prepare for the future. Chairman Bennett led the discussion to on a 4% increase. Commissioner Bishop stated the budget will already be going up 18.5% due to the reclassification of vacation rental from residential to commercial so he would not want to go any higher than a 4% increase. Commissioner Jennis stated he thinks a 4% increase will put us in good standing once labor contract negotiations come. The Board unanimously agreed to direct Chief Rigney to the 4% increase.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney congratulated Inspector Josh Adkins, FF/Medic Crystal Tucciarone, and DC Johnson on their Manatee County Fire Chief's Association Awards that were presented on March 23rd.Chief Rigney then thanked Commissioner Bishop and Chairman Bennett for attending the Brian Reed memorial on April 10th.

OTHER REPORTS: Administrative Assistant Wright reminded the Board about Form 1 Financial Disclosures due to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections by July 1st.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Warner and Commissioner Bishop gave kudos to the WMFR Staff for their hard work. Chairman Bennett welcomed Finance Clerk Page Larson to the District.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

(Seal)

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