

WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

*Minutes of March 21, 2023
Administration Building*

Special Presentations: FF/Medic Dylan McKee was sworn in. Promotions announced for Clayton Lease to 1st Class, Frank Agresta to Lieutenant, and Cameron Frazier to Lieutenant.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 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.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW: Mr. Richard Cristini gave a summary of the reasoning behind Fire District's having to go through a Performance Review calling it a "best practice effort." Commissioner Bishop asked Mr. Cristini what the difference was between this and our annual audit. Mr. Cristini explained that the Performance Review is not an audit, however, it dives deeper into District finances and practices to ensure goals set forth by the District are being met and also provides recommendations of best practices to get the District to the state of the art level. Chairman Bennett stated it is good to know that the District is going above and beyond and the staff is doing an amazing job. Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve the Performance Review as presented; seconded by Commissioner Burke; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Warner motioned to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Bishop from the February 21, 2023, Commission Meeting; seconded by Commissioner Burke; motion passed unanimously.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Warner motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Jennis; motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Bishop abstaining from the vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Short Term Vacation Rentals: Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski Attended training on tax roll assessments at the Manatee County Property Appraisers Office and received a new override code "V" dedicated to Transient Public Lodging Establishments (TPLE). FM Kwiatkowski stated that he had a productive conversation with Joey Planz, the Public Policy Advocate for Airbnb. Mr. Planz was under the impression we were advocating for changes in zoning. FM Kwiatkowski explained that we are not proposing changes to zoning and expressed what we are doing. FM Kwiatkowski quoted Mr. Planz stating, "...I believe it will calm some nerves." FM Kwiatkowski is scheduled to present a TPLE presentation at the March 28th Holmes Beach Commissioners Meeting at 5pm. He stated that we have developed a TPLE inspection checklist, so owners are able to become compliant. FM Kwiatkowski then spoke on the fire that WMFR and surrounding agencies fought at a Bradenton Beach Vacation Rental. He read sections from the article written about it in The Islander. FM Kwiatkowski's main take away was that the smoke alarm saved a young man's life, and this is why WMFR is pushing to do TPLE inspections. He mentioned and praised the efforts of fire suppression that day. Chairman Bennett asked if there is a NIFRS code to distinguish when incidents occur at vacation rentals. Chief Rigney and FM Kwiatkowski both assured the Chairman that there are ways to track it.
- B. Banking and Investments: Chief Rigney stated we are in the process of onboarding Edward Jones for our 457, 401A, and Roth IRA accounts.
- C. Hurricane Ian Property Damage: Chief Rigney stated that we received a reimbursement check for the first portion of the FB 136 deployment. He also explained that all other deployment and property damage claims are on track and in the works still with the state and FEMA.
- D. Strategic Plan: Chairman Bennett stated that it is time for a new strategic plan and asked Commissioner Bishop if he would be will to be the Board liaison for that committee. Commissioner Bishop accepted.
- E. Administrative Building Property: Chairman Bennett gave the floor to Commissioner Bishop. Commissioner Bishop stated that this topic should be a part of the Strategic Plan. Commissioner Bishop went on to say that his idea of this building is a large multipurpose metal structure to the south side the Administrative Building. Chairman Bennett mentioned us mirroring Sarasota County's Station 8. Commissioner Bishop spoke on how the Administrative Building is in a prime location to aid the island municipalities in times of emergency. Chairman Bennett suggested we create a committee and reach out to locations that were hit hard by Hurricane Ian to see what worked for them

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or what they wish they had. Chairman Bennett asked that Commissioner Jennis be on this committee. Commissioner Jennis accepted. Chief Rigney reiterated that Station 8 is a great example. Commissioner Bishop spoke on Anna Maria Island's similarities to Sanibel Island.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Spring Coverage: Commissioner Warner spoke on the current coverage we have due to Spring Break travelers and the traffic that is unbearable to get to the island. He stated that this so-called season is quickly fading as this island congestion is becoming the new year-round norm. Commissioner Warner spoke on high transport times and stated we have an ambulance service that is overwhelmed, under staffed, and underpaid. He stated the transport response times are unacceptable. Commissioner Warner then requested that Staff immediately examine the situation, develop a precise analysis, and consider alternative strategies to address the situation and improve emergency response and transportation. Commissioner Bishop agreed with Commissioner Warner and suggested this be added to the agenda going forward. Chairman Bennett also agreed and said he might like to see a 3-month snapshot of the data requested. The Board agreed that this topic should be called Total Patient Care. Chief Rigney asked for a Board liaison for this topic, the Chair appointed Commissioner Warner.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney informed the Board that Pam Reed will be at Station 2 on April 10th at 10 a.m. as it is the anniversary of Brian Reed's death. Commissioner Bishop requested a reminder for this event. Chief Rigney reminded the Board that this is not an official meeting and no District business will be discussed. Chief Rigney also reminded the Board that next month is the Budget Workshop at 5pm before the regular meeting. Chief Rigney stated that the auditor will be in attendance at next month's meeting to present to the Board.

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 Burke recalled a personal matter where a loved one did not get the care he needed due to slow response times. Commissioner Burke thanked Commissioner Warner for his words on the transport crisis and stated he agrees we need a solution. Commissioner Burke also spoke on his support for TPLE inspections and stated he does not want to see incidents such as fire or pediatric drownings in his District.

Chairman Bennett thanked the Staff for all of their hard work in always going above and beyond. He reiterated his favor in the results of the Performance Review and attributed it to the Staff.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. for the 2023-2024 Budget Workshop followed by the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary

