

**WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

*Minutes of March 15, 2022
Administration Building*

Promotions: Captain Tyler MacDonald to Battalion Chief and 3rd Class Firefighter/Medic Lisa Sedillo to 2nd Class Firefighter/Medic.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop, Al Robinson, and George Harris. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Performance Review Audit:** Chief Rigney stated that in 2021, Florida Legislation passed a bill that requires independent special fire control districts to conduct a performance audit every five years. As part of the review, a fire district's goals and objectives and whether the fire district is meeting such goals and objectives will be evaluated. Florida Association of Special Districts has provided templates that can be used for an RFP. Chief stated a committee must consist of at least three members and he is looking for a board representative to serve as the chair of the committee. Commissioner Bennett stated he would be interested. Chairman Jennis appointed Commissioner Bennett to be the chair of the Performance Review Audit Committee.

- B. **Training Officer Position:** Chief Rigney stated the training Captain title was dissolved and duties merged with the Deputy Chief in 2016. This was done in order to hire 3 firefighters at the time. A lot has changed since then including transitioning to ALS. With ALS training, new employee training, promotional testing, call volume and ISO training requirements all drastically increasing, the workload has become too much for the Deputy Chief and department appointed EFTOs and FFTOs to handle. Chief Rigney requested approval to enter into negotiations with the Collective Bargaining Unit for the addition of a Training Captain position. Commissioner Harris stated that this is a "no brainer" and there must be someone in charge of training. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve; seconded by Commissioner Bishop. Discussion followed. Commissioner Robinson asked why this position would be a part of the Union. Chief Rigney explained that PERC explained from the start of the unionization that Battalion Chiefs and above are considered management and Captains and below are part of the union. Chief Rigney explained that this isn't a choice, the only way around it is if we were to negotiate for a Training Chief's position versus a Captain. Motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Fire Marshal Kwiatkowski spoke to the board about the Drowning Prevention Campaign. He mentioned that the March 10th press conference was very successful and received a lot of media coverage that could be found on the WMFR Facebook page. He stated that the Fire and Life Safety Bureau has also delivered presentations on the matter to the district's elementary schools. Lastly, FM Kwiatkowski mentioned that on Saturday, March 19th, staff along with many volunteers will be posted on the Manatee Avenue causeway, the entrance of the Manatee County Public Beach, and Bridge Street waving drowning prevention signs from 8 am to 1 pm. The goal of the campaign is to eliminate drowning events in our district by educating and bringing awareness to the matter.

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Chief Rigney then reminded the board about the mid-year budget workshop at 5 pm before the commission meeting on April 19th. Chief also invited the board to join him at Station 2 on April 10th at 10am to be with Pam Reed as it is the 21st anniversary of Brian Reed's passing.

OTHER REPORTS: Administrative Manager Kichar stated that the annual financial disclosures will still be paper form this year and are due by July 1st.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bishop thanked everyone for their energy and dedication to the Drowning Prevention Campaign. Commissioner Robinson attended the Barrier Island Elected Officials Meeting earlier on March 15th. He stated that the only thing he sees affecting the district is the project of putting in more bike paths causing one lane roads at times. Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Harris, and Chairman Jennis went on to express how great and timely the Drowning Prevention Awareness press conference was.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 19, 2022, Workshop at 5:00 p.m. and Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

(Seal)

