

WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

*Minutes of April 16, 2019
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. with the following members present: David Bishop, Randy Cooper, George Harris, Larry Jennis and Al Robinson. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath. Chairman Bishop announced that anyone wishing to provide public comment on any of the agenda items should fill out a Comment Card located at the table by the door and hand them in to the Chief.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Chairman Bishop added New Business A) Future Capital Outlay Expenses and New Business B) Informal Discussion on Guiding Staff on Direction of Assessment Rates

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Chairman Harris motioned to pull the March 2019 budget variance from consent agenda for further consideration; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve remaining consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: Letter of thanks from Manatee County EMS Division Chief for BC Rigney participating in their hiring assessment for a District Chief.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Cooper asked what changed. BC Rigney stated that variance report that was submitted was a year end projection that was assigned to finance and dates were not correct. This should have been the actual variance report and was updated to reflect this with correct dates. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve replaced budget variance; seconded by Commissioner Cooper; motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. *Administration Building Update:* Chief Sousa stated this was complete and recommends pulling it from old business.
- B. *Cortez Old Fire Station:* Chief Sousa stated that the deed was sent to the attorney and he recommends for us to do a quit claim deed to remove the stipulations. Commissioner Harris motioned to direct our attorney to clear the stipulations in the deed of the F.I.S.H. property in Cortez; seconded by Commissioner Jennis. Discussion followed. Commissioner Robinson stated he doesn't see giving away any assets. Chairman Bishop stated that he understands his point as we are giving up leverage; leverage usually means something in return. We don't own the property, but we have rights to what it can be used for. Commissioner Cooper stated that F.I.S.H. owns, but we have stipulations. Chairman Bishop stated that we have a future interest. Commissioner Jennis stated he hates to give away. Commissioner Harris stated that with this conversation he has decided to withdraw his motion; Commissioner Jennis withdrew his second. The Chairman directed staff to bring back more information concerning this. (aerial photo, photo's inside/outside, list of pro's and con's)
- C. *Contract Services with other Fire District's:* Commissioner Harris stated there was nothing to report at this time.
- D. *Station 3 Remodel:* Chief Sousa stated that he has researched Manatee Counties process for finding architects and engineering consultants. A request has been sent to our attorney to see if we can utilize that bid to piggyback off theirs. Chairman Bishop stated this is typically a CCNA agreement. Instead of us spinning all our efforts, we can piggyback off county governments. It's a very good idea.

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REGULAR MEETING**

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NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Future Capital Outlay Expenses:* Chairman Bishop stated that this discussion is a continuation from the workshop. Commissioner Robinson would like to know what the goals for a new building are. Commissioner Harris stated if we are going to build an administration building, he would like some assurances that it could be converted into a substation if and when as a County we decide to merge some more of these fire districts. Commissioner Jennis stated he can agree with both, but if we needed to dispose of the building it would be just offices like the other building and be a saleable building. Commissioner Cooper stated that our immediate needs are for an admin/emergency operations center. We need to look at our immediate future needs and how to serve our community. Commissioner Harris thinks it would be wise if staff could paint what happens if we get a direct hit from a hurricane and how an EOC would directly benefit and impact WMFR alone and not with any other municipalities. After much discussion it was decided that a workshop would be scheduled prior to next month's meeting.
- B. *Informal Discussion on Guiding Staff on Direction of Assessment Rates:* Chairman Bishop stated that the last slide at the workshop showed 2%. Commissioner Jennis stated that 2% is very reasonable and the presentation was well done. Commissioner Cooper stated that it wouldn't hurt to look at a range of ½% below and ½% high to get an idea of what we are looking at. 2% is well below the PIG. Commissioner Harris stated he likes 2% but no more and likes that we are quite a bit under our neighboring fire district's. Commissioner Robinson inquired as to how much it amounts to. BC Rigney stated it is about \$145,000. Commissioner Robinson stated no, why label us as raising rates for \$145,000. Chairman Bishop stated for staff to work on 2%, ½% low, ½% up, 0% and a blended rate.

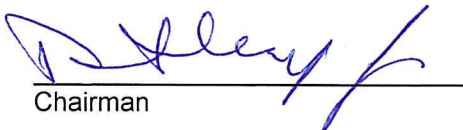
CHIEF'S REPORT: BC Rigney stated that we will be having the public hearing for fire assessment rates at next month's meeting. We will be having the Lieutenant promotional testing next week. We have 7 candidates and 3 slots available. The audit report should possibly be presented at next month's meeting. The quarterly pension board meeting will be on Thursday, April 25th at 9:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Chairman Bishop would like to see if audit presentation could be started at 5:45 next month if ready; Commissioner Robinson stated that staff did a great job today, he also attended Barrier Island meeting yesterday and significant items are that we will be getting 2 big bridges and there will be roundabouts at Publix and City Beach, can we live with that with the big trucks. Commissioner Harris wanted to know if we are working with FDOT concerning the new bridges and asked if there is anything imperative for June meeting that must be addressed. Could this be added to next month agenda for consideration. Commissioner Cooper gave compliments to staff and a reminder about Sunshine Law class on May 23rd. Chairman Bishop kudo's to staff. With being board liaison for events he stated that he understands that Chief Sousa would like a low-key retirement ceremony, however he believes in the pomp and circumstance to acknowledge the retirement of current Chief and acknowledgement of incoming Chief. Glad to be a part of this and we will be doing it right.

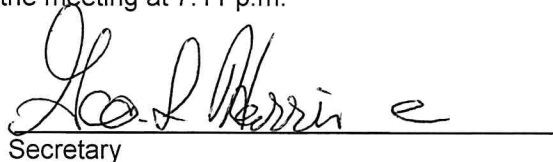
NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at Administration building for workshop, followed by regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Bishop adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

(Seal)



Chairman



Secretary