

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

*Minutes of June 18, 2019
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Promotions of Frank Agresta to 2nd Class Firefighter

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: 2017-2018 Audit Report by Randy Dillingham. Mr. Dillingham reported that the audit was a clean report with an unmodified opinion which is the best you can get. There was a net change of \$426,260 in excess.

PUBLIC HEARING for 1st Reading Ordinance 2019-03 Amending & Restating FF Retirement Plan: Chairman Bishop opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-03. Administrative Assistant Kichar verified it was published in the Bradenton Herald on 6/9/19. She then read the opening paragraph of the ordinance. Chief Sousa stated that one of the changes is for member contributions, clarification regarding disability and cleanup of some of the language. Chairman Bishop opened for public comment. A resident from the island asked if someone can be reemployed after retirement. Chief Sousa stated not as a firefighter. Chairman Bishop closed the public hearing. Commissioner Cooper asked if the firefighters/union are o.k. with this. Chief Sousa stated that the union has some questions concerning the disability and will be clarified before next hearing. Chairman Bishop adjourned the public hearing.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Remove 10b Station 2 Lease Agreement and add 10c Nondisclosure Agreement Manatee County Property Appraiser

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dr. Matthews who is the owner of the dentist office which is one of the properties that we are looking at spoke. He stated he does not have a broker and any deal would be between our board and himself.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. *Cortez Old Fire Station:* Commissioner Cooper stated that he and Chief Rigney went to the F.I.S.H. board meeting. The F.I.S.H board would like to keep status quo and keep the stipulations that are in place now. It was agreed to remove from agenda at this time.
- B. *New Administration Building:* Bob Gause reported back over some of the questions from last month's meeting. The sites were narrowed down to Site C and Site D. He went over the costs involved with both sites. Site D would need sewer hookup. Commissioner Cooper asked about the potential of a septic tank. Mr. Gause stated he would check into that. After further discussion by the board, Chairman Bishop took a poll. Commissioner Jennis stated Site D, has good square footage and a clean site; Commissioner Cooper stated both have pro's and con's and is leaning toward Site D; Commissioner Harris stated he is leaning toward Site D; Commissioner Robinson stated Site C and Chairman Bishop stated it's almost a dead heat and he is on the fence on both. Chief Sousa stated he needs direction to negotiate with both owners. Commissioner Robinson motioned to have Chief Sousa bring contracts with terms and conditions for board approval for both properties; seconded by Commissioner Cooper; motion passed unanimously.

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NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Fire Chief Employment Contract:* Chief Sousa stated that our attorney has reviewed and approved the contract with various conditions of employment. Chairman Bishop stated that it is similar to the contract that Chief Sousa has, and the only other difference is that Chairman Bishop asked for the contract to be 5 years instead of 3 years. Also, after looking at the salary studies, we need to be in a certain range and when you have talent you pay for talent. Commissioner Harris asked about the residency requirement. Chief Sousa stated that he must reside in the district. Commissioner Cooper asked how long it would take to complete the Executive Officer Program. Chief Rigney stated it would be in about 2-3 years. Commissioner Cooper motioned to accept the contract as presented; seconded by Commissioner Jennis; motion passed unanimously.
- B. *Nondisclosure Agreement Manatee County Property Appraiser:* Chief Sousa stated during this legislation session some changes were made to public disclosure of some properties. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve the revised agreement with the Manatee County Property Appraiser Office presented by the Chief; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Sousa stated that Commissioner Jennis recently attended the Florida Association of Special District's annual conference where he received his award as a Certified District Official. He is the first in our District to complete this program. Chief Sousa also stated that the item that was pulled from the agenda concerning the Station 2 lease agreement will have a clean survey completed so that is why it was pulled. Chief Rigney thanked the Board for awarding his contract and looks forward to his continued years.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Robinson stated that with the assessment rates set last month, if he had known we had \$580,000 that we didn't spend last year he would have been more vocal about objecting to the rates. He also asked for the numbers for the past few years. Commissioner Jennis stated that with regarding the carryover that Commissioner Robinson mentioned, the labor costs appear to be trending upward for the next few years and with the new cancer bill this will be a cost to the district and these are unknown costs at this time. Commissioner Cooper stated he is looking forward to working with Chief Rigney.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Bishop adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

(Seal)


Chairman


Secretary

