

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

*Minutes of September 12, 2023
Administration Building*

Special Presentations: Joanna Baker and colleagues, of the Sertoma Club of Bradenton, presented a \$1,000 check to Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski to purchase smoke detectors for the hearing-impaired constituents of the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: Robert Bennett, Larry Jennis, David Bishop, and Billy Burke. Not present: Derrick Warner. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

2ND PUBLIC HEARING 2023-2024 BUDGET: Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright verified that public notice was advertised in The Bradenton Herald on September 3, 2023, and read the resolution summary. A resolution of the West Manatee Fire & Rescue District of Manatee County, Florida, adopting a final budget for fiscal year 2023-2024, and providing for an effective date. Chairman Bennett opened the public hearing for public comments; there were none. Commissioner Jennis motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Commissioner Burke. There was no Board discussion. Chairman Bennett adjourned the public hearing. Commissioner Jennis motioned to adopt the 2023-2024 Budget as presented; seconded by Commissioner Burke. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Bishop – Yes, Commissioner Burke – Yes, Commissioner Jennis – Yes, Chairman Bennett – Yes. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING 2023 FIRE ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATION: Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright verified that public notice was advertised in The Bradenton Herald on September 3, 2023, and read the resolution summary. A Resolution of the West Mantee Fire and Rescue District of Manatee County, Florida, certifying the 2023 Fire Assessment. Chairman Bennett opened the public hearing for public comments; there were none. Commissioner Jennis motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Commissioner Burke. Commissioner Bishop asked if residents had enough time to dispute their assessment due to the hurricane. Chief Rigney stated that parcel owners reach out right away and all instances have been resolved on the spot. Chairman Bennett adjourned the public hearing. Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve the 2023 Fire Assessment Certification as presented; seconded by Commissioner Burke. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Bishop – Yes, Commissioner Burke – Yes, Commissioner Jennis – Yes, Chairman Bennett – Yes. Motion carried 4-0.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: AA Wright stated that thank you cards have been received from Mission BBQ stating their appreciation of our personnel and for the ability to serve them. AA Wright went on to say that the Mission BBQ Community Ambassador has delivered meals to all shifts at Station 1 and will be delivering to Station 2 this month. AA Wright then read an email from Commissioner Warner to Chief Rigney regarding his absence from the meeting.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Total Patient Care: No update currently.

B. Vacation Rental Identification: FM Kwiatkowski stated he received the timeline from Granicus and stated it will aid in the goal is to identify vacation rentals with the mindset of life safety and community resiliency. FM Kwiatkowski outlined the timeline to implement and train on the software. The goal is to be fully implemented by March to then jump into Union negotiations. FM Kwiatkowski recommended we go into contract with Granicus. Commissioner Bishop asked if there was a way to cancel the contract if the

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software doesn't live up to it's promises. The Board conversed on the topic ultimately stating that this compliance software will be beneficial and will lighten the load on the Administrative Staff. Commissioner Bishop made a motion to enter contract with Granicus with the stipulation that there be an exit clause after training if expectations are not met. Commissioner Jennis seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. 2024 Legislative Session Lobbyist – Chief Rigney explained that Legal Council advised Staff to hire a lobbyist for the 2024 Legislative Session, specifically David Ramba. Chief Rigney stated the goal is to add language to the WMFR Enabling Act specifying the duty to inspect Transient Public Lodging Establishments (TPLEs). Commissioner Bishop asked if we have worked with this Lobbyist before. Chief Rigney said we have not. Commissioner Burke motioned to retain Ramba Law Group for the 2024 Legislative Session; Seconded by Commissioner Jennis. Commissioner Bishop stated that when we do speak with Representative Will Robinson, we need to make it clear that this is nothing new and that we are obligated to perform these inspections, under the law, on businesses using single family residences such as assisted living facilities, daycares, and vacation rentals. Commissioner Jennis and Commissioner Burke also reiterated that stance. Motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney spoke on the District's response to Hurricane Idalia. Chief Rigney also explained that District personnel were deployed for an Engine Strike Team Mission as well as a Water Tender Mission. Chief Rigney thanked North River Fire District and East Manatee Fire District for loaning their water tender and high-water vehicle. Chief Rigney thanked all personnel for their dedication to the District during this time. Chief Rigney then recommended Commissioner Jennis be appointed to the vehicle committee. Chairman Bennett agreed and appointed Commissioner Jennis. FM Kwiatkowski spoke on the upcoming Open House that will take place on Saturday, November 4th from 11am to 2pm.

OTHER REPORTS: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: The Commissioners thanked WMFR Personnel for their sacrifice during and after Hurricane Idalia and spoke on the response and possibilities had it hit the District directly.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

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



Chairman



Secretary

