

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

*Minutes of June 20, 2023
Administration Building*

Special Presentations: Phoenix Awards & New Hire Oath to Brooks Larkin, Zackary Misiura, and Zachary Younce.

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 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.

PUBLIC HEARING 2022-2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT: Administrative Assistant Wright verified that public notice was advertised in The Bradenton Herald on Sunday, June 11th, 2023, and read the resolution summary. Finance Clerk Larson summarized the need to amend the budget including, but not limited to, higher revenue from interest earned, the effects of higher overtime expenses due to Hurricane Ian deployments, and the approval to add more personnel mid-year. Chairman Bennett opened the public hearing for public comments; there were none. Commissioner Jennis motioned to close the public hearing. There was no discussion from the Board. Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment - Resolution 2023-03 as presented. Commissioner Warner seconded. Roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Bishop – yes, Commissioner Burke – yes, Chairman Bennett - yes, Commissioner Jennis – yes, Chairman Bennett – yes. Motion passed 5-0.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Chief Rigney requested that "Vacation Rental Identification" be added to New Business. Chairman Bennett approved this change.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Total Patient Care: Chief Rigney asked for direction from the Board on how to move forward with the topic of Total Patient Care. The Board deliberated amongst themselves and asked Chief Rigney and Deputy Chief (DC) Johnson questions throughout. Dissatisfaction with EMS, EMS staffing and turnover rates were discussed as well as WMFR's standards for satisfactory response times. Ultimately and after much discussion, the Board directed Staff to gather data including EMS response times in all zip codes in the District and compare them to NFPA standards. The Board agreed that the goal of this study is to find out if our District is deficient compared to national averages and alike communities and if so how. The Board directed staff to bring this information to the July 18th Commission Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Vacation Rental Identification: Chief Rigney gave a transitory explanation of what Granicus is, defining it as a compliance monitoring software. Chief Rigney explained that Granicus is part of the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) which is available for use and benefits all organizations that must comply with state purchasing laws. He then gave the floor to Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski. FM Kwiatkowski explained that the tax roll was completed last week, and that the Bureau identified approximately 3,200 transient public lodging establishments (TPLEs) mostly through the Department of Business and Professional Regulations (DBPR). After speaking with a few compliance monitoring software companies, Granicus was the only to offer the number of unique rental properties they have identified in the District. FM Kwiatkowski stated Granicus could help the District identify approximately 1,800 transient public lodging establishments (TPLEs) that may currently be non-compliant. FM Kwiatkowski stated the main goal is to educate the District on public safety. Commissioner Jennis asked what the commitment is for this service and price. Chief Rigney stated that it is a year commitment then services could be continued

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as is or on a more limited basis. FM Kwiatkowski went on to explain the real time data collection that Granicus can achieve versus how difficult that could be to track internally. Commissioner Jennis asked if we have been able to speak to others with this service. Commissioner Bishop suggested we express more due diligence in researching this and other such companies before spending District funds. The Board discussed the topic further and decided a committee should be formed to investigate all the software options. Chairman Bennett appointed Commissioner Burke to be the Board representative for this committee. Commissioner Bishop clarified that we are phasing into this process and that will take time.


CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney mentioned the water main break to Anna Maria Island at the Manatee Avenue bridge. He stated that based on his sources, this could take weeks to repair and will involve the DOT. Water pressure is low as a result; however, North River Fire District is assisting by lending their water tender which holds 2,100 gallons of water. Chief Rigney then congratulated the District for being awarded the 2023 Special District of the Year by the Florida Association of Special Districts and the honor that it holds. He then reiterated that FM Kwiatkowski is currently at the NFPA conference in Las Vegas, Nevada as both a presenter and an attendee to be presenting the next morning on the topic of short-term vacation rentals and will also be presenting in November at the 75th Annual Florida Fire Prevention Conference in Gainesville, FL. Chief Rigney followed that with his plan to complete the Executive Fire Officer Program in November as well as reminding the Board that he will be absent for the July Commission Meeting. DC Johnson will run the meeting in his absence. DC Johnson stated that the awards given earlier were a direct correlation with the leadership the Battalion Chiefs provide. DC Johnson thanked the Battalion Chiefs for their dedication to the operations personnel they lead as well as their tireless work in administration.

OTHER REPORTS: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Warner Commissioner Burke both stated they attended the FASD Annual Conference in Orlando. They spoke on their positive experiences and the impact they could see WMFR is having. They both expressed plans on completing the Certified District Official Program. Commissioner Bishop thanked all District personnel stating everyone's hard work earned the Special District of the Year Award. Chairman Bennett reiterated the Chief's and Board's comments and thanked Staff for their continued efforts. Chairmen Bennett informed the Board that he will be absent for the July Commission Meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.


Chairman


Secretary

