

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

*Revised Minutes of February 19, 2019  
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm with the following members present: David Bishop, Larry Jennis, Randy Cooper, Al Robinson. George Harris arrived at 6:12 and oath was administered. 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:** New Business – Cortez Old Fire Station

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Cooper; motion passed unanimously. 4-0; Harris not present.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Letter from Chief Hoyle of Cedar Hammock Fire thanking Battalion Chief Kiernan for assisting with their recent promotional review board.

**CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. *Administration Building Update:* Chief Sousa stated that Oasis school's contractor has applied for the permits. It is going through the review processes. Waiting on a date for closing.

*(At this time Chairman Bishop paused Old Business B and New Business A until Commissioner Harris arrives. Continued with New Business B at this time.)*

- B. *Succession Planning:* Commissioner Jennis explained the timeline and the process that has been completed at this point for the appointment of Fire Chief. We received one response and interviewed Ben Rigney. The committee supports and recommends moving to the next process of individual interviews by the board members. He stated that he is exceptionally well qualified to be a Fire Chief. He has deep family ties to the area and is invested in our community. Commissioner Jennis stated that he personally recommends him for the position. Chairman Bishop thanked Commissioner Jennis for his time and was looking to have a motion if willing to stay internal. Commissioner Robinson stated we should have interviews first. Commissioner Cooper asked if it hurts to just talk about going outside. Commissioner Harris stated that it would be premature to go outside, but premature to say we are not going to go outside. Commissioner Jennis stated that the procedure states that the individual interviews would take place next, then determine if board would select candidate or go outside. Chairman Bishop stated that if the policy states that, then there is nothing to vote on and the individual interviews will take place next.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. *Commissioner Honorarium:* Commissioner Harris asked if staff has looked into this. Administrative Assistant Kichar stated that the other districts are at the full \$500 except North River. They are at \$250 and \$300 for the Treasurer. Public Notice would need to be placed in newspaper and needs a super majority vote. Commissioner Harris stated that he would like to change from the current \$250 a month to \$500 a month. Commissioner Robinson stated that he could go along with whatever everyone else wants. Commissioner Jennis stated he agrees with Commissioner Robinson. Commissioner Cooper stated people who run for office should not be doing for the money, would not vote for it. Chairman Bishop stated he can see both sides. Commissioner Harris motioned to change from the current \$250 a month to \$500 a month with discussion; Commissioner Jennis seconded; discussion. Chief Sousa stated that this needs to be advertised and resolution needs to be done. Chairman Bishop stated the motion would need to be amended to advertise and go through the process. Commissioner Harris agreed to amended motion. Roll

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call was taken. Commissioner Robinson – no; Commissioner Harris – yes; Commissioner Jennis – no; Commissioner Cooper – no; Chairman Bishop – no; motion did not pass.

- B. *Operational Policies:* B.C. Rigney reported that we have been working on updating the operational policies as this was goal #7 in the Strategic Plan. A committee was formed, and most items found were in place prior to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. These items now point out to refer to the CBA. Other items were formatting and just getting all the policies standardized. BC Rigney states staff recommends approving the operational policies and allow for scrivener's errors. The administrative policies will come next. Commissioner Cooper motioned to adopt the policies as presented with scrivener's errors; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motion passed unanimously. 4-0; Harris not present.
- C. *Collective Bargaining Agreement:* B.C. Rigney went over the important changes in the document. He stated that the members voted on Monday and Tuesday last week and the CBA passed with a vote of 24-8. Chief Sousa stated that it has been a long process. There has been a lot of give and take and he wanted to state that both sides did a great job. Recommendation is to approve CBA with scrivener's errors. Commissioner Cooper inquired about what incentive pays were removed. B.C. Rigney stated that the bike team and Haz-Mat team were removed. Chief Sousa stated that the pay was restructured for the incentives. Commissioner Harris asked if the incentive pay is pensionable and Chief Sousa stated that yes it was. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously.
- D. *Uniform Collection Agreement:* Chief Sousa stated that this is an update on the contract with the property appraiser and tax collector. This is a boiler plate document and reviewed by our legal. Commissioner Jennis asked if there were operational changes. Chief Sousa stated it was about 3 years ago when it was changed to do tax roll electronically and the document had not been updated. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Uniform Collection Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Cooper; motion passed unanimously.
- E. *Contract Services for Fire Chief/Administration:* Commissioner Harris stated that initially he kicked this around in the fall with the Chief and South Manatee Chief Gorski to see if they might be interested in providing contract services to us as an alternative to replacing the Chief and/or administration center. Chief Gorski would like a letter from our board stating that Commissioner Harris has the backing of our board to at least explore. Commissioner Robinson stated that he does not think we are top heavy in our administration. Commissioner Jennis stated that he agreed and feels that our staff are very competent, and our administrative costs are very low. Commissioner Cooper stated he also agreed but doesn't mind looking into something new. Chairman Bishop stated that he does not see it as an attack on our culture and has no problem in Commissioner Harris talking to them. Commissioner Cooper motioned to authorize Commissioner Harris to meet with other fire districts to explore administrative opportunities; seconded by Commissioner Harris; Discussion followed. Commissioner Robinson stated that he feels this is a waste of time. Roll call was taken. Commissioner Jennis – no; Commissioner Cooper – yes; Commissioner Harris – yes; Commissioner Robinson – no; Chairman Bishop – yes. Motion passed 3-2.
- F. *Cortez Old Fire Station:* Commissioner Harris stated that he received a call from Mary Fulford Green concerning the old fire station. She has presented using the building for a Manatee County Fire Science Museum. This is something the entire county should look at and not just our board. This might be appropriate to be brought up at the Manatee County Fire Commissioner Association meeting. B.C. Losek stated that he has the original contract. It can't be used to make profits; if so, it would revert to the District. Chief Sousa will investigate this and Chairman Bishop stated it would be placed on next month's agenda.

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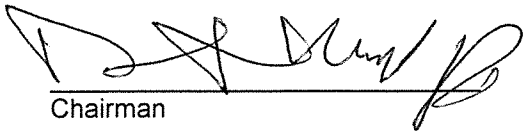
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**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Sousa stated that Battalion Chief Losek's retirement ceremony will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Station 1. Also, the air packs have been received and training started today. The cost was \$276,000 and we received \$106,000 from the AFG Grant. Battalion Chief Moore reported that the boat motors have been sold for \$10,700 plus the amount we received from the insurance claim brings it to approximately \$32,000. The estimate for the new motors is \$38,000 and a new jack plate for \$3,500. The goal is to have completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Commissioner Cooper asked if there was any value in the old air packs. Battalion Chief Jasinski stated possibly around \$6,000 - \$7,000.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Administration Building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Bishop adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm

  
Chairman

  
Secretary

