

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

*Minutes of February 16, 2021
Administration Building and via Zoom*

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett and Al Robinson. David Bishop and George Harris via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Awards were presented to FF/Medic Frank Agresta for receiving Firefighter of the Year for 2020 and to Captain Tyler MacDonald for receiving Officer of the Year for 2020.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Bishop from the January 19, 2021 meeting; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Bishop abstaining.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve consent agenda exclusive of the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Bishop abstaining as he was not present at that meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. *Administration Building:* Chief Rigney reported that the project is moving quickly. They are currently running electrical, data, and plumbing with completion date still scheduled for end of April. We will need to give an easement to Florida Power & Light so they will be able to connect power to the building. This easement would be about a 10' wide run on the south east corner of the building. Legal will be reviewing easement prior to being signed and they advised that it is acceptable to obtain a motion for the Chief and/or Chair to enter into the agreement with FPL and have the signed agreement ratified at next board meeting. Commissioner Bishop motioned to authorize the Chief and/or Chair to enter into an easement agreement with FP&L for the purpose of powering the new administration building; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously.
- B. *Committee Appointments:* Chairman Jennis asked Commissioner Bishop if he was fine with the appointments, he was given at last month's meeting as he was not present. Commissioner Bishop stated he would accept.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Annual Report:* Deputy Chief Johnson presented the annual report. He stated that the mission and dedication of the District has not changed and even during these trying times, Chief has stayed focused on this mission. If Chief Rigney had not been so proactive with the COVID protocols the operational period that we just went through would have been extremely compromising. He deserves a great amount of recognition for his efforts to keep the staff and line personnel safe and healthy. We ran about 3,000 calls last year with 52 being fire calls. A huge trend of increase is being seen for rescue/medical calls. Chairman Jennis stated this was a nice presentation with good information. Commissioner Harris stated that he was impressed with the report overall and just noted that on page 2 the station numbers need to be corrected.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney stated congratulations to FF/Medic Agresta for Firefighter of the Year and Captain Tyler MacDonald for Officer of the Year.

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COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bennett stated that he was appointed at last months meeting to be the representative for the Manatee County Fire Commissioners Association. They recently had their meeting, and he was appointed as Vice-President. They currently are going over the by-laws to see how the organization is going to proceed. The next meeting is April 5th and he will report back after that meeting. Also, great job to Firefighter and Officer of the Year. Commissioner Harris asked Commissioner Bennett if the meeting was in person or Zoom. Commissioner Bennett stated that 6 people were in person and then some were by Zoom. Commissioner Harris asked if it was a general consensus that the meetings are not as useful as they have been since COVID. Commissioner Bennett stated they are trying to figure out how it is going to function in the future as it seems to have outgrown the old system of how it was built. Commissioner Bishop stated good job on the annual report and to staff. Commissioner Harris stated he echoed what Commissioner Bishop said.

NEXT MEETING: Shade Meeting, Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting, Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

