

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

*Minutes of November 13, 2018
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Randy Cooper, David Bishop, Al Robinson and George Harris. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath. Chairman Jennis 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: Promotion of Firefighter Derek Bill to 1st Class.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Administrative Assistant Kichar reviewed communications received.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. *Administration Building Update:* Chief Sousa stated that the community meeting will be held at the admin building on November 27th at 6:00; the special master hearing is scheduled at Manatee County on December 19th; due diligence period ends on December 4th and would have 30 days to close. Their attorney reached out to our attorney requesting an extension. Chief Sousa stated that his recommendation would be to give extension with stipulation that the only contingency would be if they failed to get the special use permit; increase the deposit from \$30K to \$100K; close by June 1st and give 30 days to come up with the other \$70K. Commissioner Cooper stated he is not sure what the extra \$70K would do? Commissioner Harris stated it shows they are committed. Commissioner Bishop stated that we know they are serious, and we are in limbo. The additional amount is making sure they are serious and supports the extension for the public hearing. Commissioner Robinson asked if there is any backup offer? Our realtor stated there is no backup offer, but there has been someone else who has been looking. Chairman Jennis stated he is o.k. with what Chief presented. Commissioner Cooper motioned to increase deposit to a total of \$100,000; allow 30 days for the additional balance; contingent on approval by the County and give to June 1, 2019 to close; seconded by Commissioner Harris who wanted to amend the motion to include that this would be final extension. Discussion followed. Commissioner Cooper agreed to the amended motion; motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Hancock Banking CD:* Chief Sousa stated that he and Commissioner Cooper have met with Hancock Bank concerning some portfolio options. The CD portfolio shows the best option and Commissioner Cooper stated that after sitting in on this discussion this portfolio shows a secure way to invest the money. Commissioner Harris stated that this is great. Chief Sousa stated that we could move \$2M from reserves to a CD portfolio. Commissioner Bishop motioned to move \$2M from savings to CD portfolio; seconded by Commissioner Harris; discussion followed. Chairman Jennis stated he would like amend motion to be up to \$2M at Chief's discretion. Chief Sousa stated per policy it should state a dollar amount and authorize him to enter into a trust agreement. Commissioner Bishop did not accept amendment however added to his motion to empower the Chief to enter into a trust agreement on behalf of the Board. Discussion ended. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. *Succession Plan:* Chief Sousa stated this this past May his contract was extended for an additional 3 years. He stated that some things have come up and his plans have changed. He would like to give notice that that he will be ending his contract next October. It has been great working with the Board and we have been doing a really good job mentoring our personnel to carry the organization forward. Would like to have a workshop in January. The Board agreed to have workshop at 5:00 p.m. on January 15, 2019.

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Chief Sousa stated that we need to revisit Administration Building Update. Motion needs to be made for Chief Sousa to sign amendment to contract. Commissioner Harris motioned to authorize Chief Sousa to sign an amendment to the current contract to extend current contract based on the conditions that were laid out; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.

- C. **Board Elections:** Commissioner Bishop stated he would like to ask the current Vice-Chair if he would like to serve as Chair. Commissioner Robinson declined. Commissioner Harris nominated Commissioner Bishop as Chair; Bishop accepted; unanimous ballot was cast. Commissioner Harris nominated Commissioner Cooper as Vice-Chair; Cooper accepted; unanimous ballot was cast. Commissioner Bishop nominated Commissioner Harris as Secretary-Treasurer; Harris accepted; unanimous ballot was cast.
- D. **2019 Meeting Dates:** Commissioner Harris motioned to accept the meeting dates; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Administrative Battalion Chief reported about the deployment for Hurricane Michael. He stated that there were 28 from Manatee County that were on the engine strike team. They had gone to Tallahassee and from there staged in Marianna County. The mission was to clear all the road ways and go house to house. We had our ALS engine which was very beneficial to have as it was about a 2-hour transport to nearest hospital. After leaving Marianna County they were sent to Gulf County. Our guys helped in anyway that they could. The total deployment was from October 10th – 25th. All the crews did a great job. West Manatee deployed Battalion Chief Rigney as strike team leader, Battalion Chief Losek, FF/Paramedic Flores and then there were 2 FF/Paramedic's from Longboat that road with our engine. Chief Sousa stated that Manatee County Commission will be recognizing the engine strike teams and ambulance strike teams at 9:00 on November 27th. Our individuals will be recognized at our annual awards ceremony as well. Chief Sousa also stated that the Closest Unit Response is still being worked on. Manatee County is looking at updating the CAD System by 2020.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bishop thanked Chairman Jennis for the great job he did this year. Also, thanked Chief Sousa for all he has done here. Commissioner Robinson also told Chief Sousa that he has made it easy. Commissioner Cooper asked Captain Moore about the call. Captain Moore responded that this was a few weeks ago and it was a mother and son who were in a swan raft and got swept out in the gulf and M1 did the rescue. It has now made nationwide news. Commissioner Harris asked about the December meeting. Commissioner Harris motioned to cancel the December 18th meeting; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motioned passed unanimously. Commissioner Harris also told Chief Sousa that it has been great and sad to see him go. Chairman Jennis wanted to thank Chief Rigney, Chief Losek and FF/Paramedic Flores for going on the deployment and sacrificing the time away from their families.

NEXT MEETING: Workshop, Tuesday, January 15th, 2018 at 5:00 pm followed by regular meeting at the Administration Building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm

Chairman

Secretary

(Seal)