WEST MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of October 20, 2026
Administration Building

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Chaplain Ciampaglio presented the Citizens Commitment, Courage, & Compassion Award to Piotr Tomczyk. Promotions: Malik Staton to Level 2 Inspector; Matthew French, Kyle Elliott, Gabriel Gonzalez, & Zackary Misiura to 2nd Class Firefighters; Jerrod Apple to 1st Class Firefighter; Clayton Lease to Lieutenant; John Stump to Captain.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. with the following members present: Billy Burke, Larry Jennis, Dana Tindall, Robert Bennett, and Derrick Warner. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

AA Wright outlined the measures implemented to prevent future Zoom disruptions, including restricting participant microphones, cameras, screen sharing, renaming, and annotations. Staff now controls public comment access and can suspend participant activity or remove disruptive individuals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kevin Lausman of Northwest Bradenton addressed the Board regarding the Ad Valorem referendum, the Bradenton Beach property purchase, and the District's five-year building plans. Chairman Jennis explained that approximately $30,000 was spent on referendum election fees and that future building plans are largely dependent on grant funding. Chief Rigney stated that the District purchased the Bradenton Beach property from the Fire Lodge Association for $1 million plus attorney fees, significantly below its potential market value of $3–$5 million. He further explained that the District is pursuing a FEMA mitigation grant that could fund 75% of a new fire station, with the District responsible for the remaining 25%. Chairman Jennis informed Mr. Lausman of the District's online millage calculator for property-specific tax estimates. Commissioner Bennett discussed the due diligence conducted before the property was purchased.

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Warner; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: AA Wright reported two letters of appreciation: one recognizing FM Kwiatkowski and Lieutenant Adkins for their partnership with the Sertoma Club in installing a bed shaker fire alarm, and another thanking Training Chief Tuttle for assisting Parrish Fire District with promotional testing.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. City of Anna Maria Equipment Storage MOU: Chief Rigney explained that the MOU formalizes the District's existing practice of allowing the City of Anna Maria to store equipment at the Administration Building during weather emergencies, with no cost or liability to the District. Commissioner Burke moved to adopt the City of Anna Maria Equipment Storage MOU. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Station 3 Hazard Mitigation Grant: Chief Rigney stated the City of Holmes Beach submitted a grant for their public works building and WMFR Station 3 back in 2024 that is moving forward for up to $6 million to elevate Station 3. No Board action is needed at this time.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney recognized Lieutenant Frazier, who deployed to Texas, and Lieutenant Powers, FF/Medic Pollock, FF/Medic Fischbach, and FF/Medic Apple, who deployed to Texas and Escambia County, and thanked the Commissioners seeking reelection for their service and contributions to the District. DC Johnson provided an update on the Cortez Bridge project following a recent workshop, noting construction is expected to begin November 9. He also congratulated the evening's promoted personnel. FM Kwiatkowski discussed progress on a seven-year effort to extend water service to a portion of the District, Fire Prevention Month activities involving homeschool groups and daycares, and the Halloween event at Azalea Park.

OTHER REPORTS: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Warner spoke on the election efforts. Commissioner Bennett thanked staff and expressed pride in the personnel. Commissioner Tindall spoke on the deployments and her past experiences. She then said she was honored to be a Commissioner. Commissioner Burke expressed his joy in serving on the Board.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Burke adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

(Seal)