

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

*Minutes of May 18, 2021
Administration Building and via Zoom*

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop, George Harris and Al Robinson. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

AUDIT PRESENTATION: 2019-2020 Audit Report by Randy Dillingham via Zoom. Mr. Dillingham reported that the audit was a clean report with an unmodified opinion which is the best you can get. The fund balance that was carried forward for fiscal year 2021 was \$6,180,044. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve the audit as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Promotions of Lieutenant Jeff Philips and Oath for new employee Firefighter/Paramedic Crystal Tucciarone

PUBLIC HEARING 2021 FIRE ASSESSMENT RATES: Administrative Manager Kichar verified that public notice was advertised in the Bradenton Herald on Sunday, May 9th,2021. Chief Rigney stated at last month's meeting he was asked to bring back a 4% rate for the resolution. He stated that the state allowed 5.64% for the Personal Income Growth. Staff recommends accepting of the 4% increase for the resolution. Chairman Jennis opened the public hearing for public comments; there was none. Chairman Jennis closed the public hearing. Commissioner Harris stated it says a lot that we set our rates below the P.I.G. and we have done this year after year. Commissioner Bennett motioned to adopt the 2021 Fire Assessment Rate Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Robinson – no, Commissioner Harris - yes, Commissioner Bennett - yes, Commissioner Bishop - yes, Chairman Jennis - yes. Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Robinson dissenting.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. *Administration Building:* Chief Rigney reported that we are moving along quickly. The EOC floor will be completed this weekend. We should have the temporary CO soon. We should be starting to move in around the 24th. Commissioner Bishop stated we need to make sure that the substantial completion form gets completed. The date of this form is important as this is what starts the warranty date. Commissioner Harris asked about the fencing and gate out front. Chief Rigney stated that Administrative Manager Kichar was in process of getting quotes.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney stated that B.C. Kiernan will be retiring on June 2nd. B.C. Kiernan notified us about 6 months ago with the date, so B.C. Brunner was promoted and has been training during this time. Also, FF Mike Petrosino is retiring on June 1st. Deputy Chief Johnson stated that we recently have cleared 3 new charge paramedics. The new charge paramedics are Captain MacDonald, Firefighter Bill and Firefighter Fischbach. We also have 2 new hires. Gabriel Gonzalez who is coming from Washington State and originally from Sanford, FL. He is a paramedic. The next new hire is one of our reserves who is currently in paramedic school, William Thomas.

OTHER REPORTS: Administrative Manager Kichar reminded everyone about the deadline for submitting the Financial Disclosure forms that are due July 1st.

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COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Robinson stated that the Barrier Island meeting has been cancelled again. Commissioner Harris stated that it speaks highly about having so many paramedics on the trucks. Commissioner Bennett stated as well about having the amount of charge paramedics. He also stated he thinks it is great to be able to bring up the Battalion Chief early for training and not just throwing to the wolves. Commissioner Bishop wanted to thank staff for the clean audit and also wanted to caution the board that we are running a race with the other districts, and we need to be careful moving forward. We are forced to make a tough vote every year as we don't have the luxury of having ad valorem. Chairman Jennis wanted to congratulate the 3 new charge paramedics and the EFTO's who work to assist them.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at new Administration Headquarters at 701 63rd St. W.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

