

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop and Al Robinson. George Harris via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. *Administration Building:* Chief Rigney reported that there have been multiple meetings. The building is progressing rapidly. Most of the drywall is up except for the EOC. Windows should be going in over the next several days and the propane tanks are being buried. Chairman Jennis stated it is moving along well.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. *FPL Easement:* Chief Rigney stated this was presented at last month's meeting. We have entered into an agreement with FPL. Legal has reviewed and approved. It has been recorded with Clerk of Court. It was advised by legal last month to have it ratified at this meeting. Commissioner Bennett motioned to ratify the approval of the FPL easement as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.

B. *Portable Radio Purchase:* BC Brunner reported that we are looking at replacing the current portable radios. The total would be about \$95,000 and as the station alerting has been postponed, he stated he would like to reallocate those funds to purchase the portable radios. The benefits of the radios are that they will pair with Bluetooth and our SCBA's; there is no additional licensing for them and uniformity with the other Districts. Commissioner Robinson stated he was concerned with spending \$100,000 for an expense that was not planned for and suggested we put it off for a year or so. Chief Rigney stated that the current price is about a 40% discount. Commissioner Bishop stated we already have it in the capital outlay plan, and this would just reallocate the funds already in the budget. He stated he was not against this, however, would like to see in the future that when we see the need to be replaced that the process is smoother. Commissioner Harris stated this is why we have contingency funds and when we have an opportunity like this, we need to explore it. Commissioner Bennett stated that if the money has already been allocated, we should move forward with it if station alerting is not happening. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve the reallocating of the \$100,000 from station alerting to portable radio purchase; seconded by Commissioner Bennett; motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Robinson dissenting.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney stated that there will be interviews coming up for promotions. There are 2 Lieutenant promotions and 1 for Captain. This will be completed the first week of April. We will be having the budget workshop next month. Chairman Jennis stated he would like to move it up to 4:30 so it gives a little bit more time. Commissioner Bishop stated he feels that the normal hour we do is sufficient, however since we have a new board member, he would agree to 4:30. All agreed to meet at 4:30 on April 20th for the workshop prior to regular meeting.

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COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Harris stated concerning the radio issue, having been out there doing the job, secondary to the SCBA's, gear, the radio is probably one of the most important items that are carried and having the most up to date electronics on them is extremely important.

NEXT MEETING: Budget Workshop, Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. followed by regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Chairman



Secretary

