

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

*Minutes of August 19, 2025
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. with the following members present: Robert Bennett, Larry Jennis, Derrick Warner, Dana Tindall and Billy Burke. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

PUBLIC HEARING 2024-2025 BUDGET AMMENDMENT – RESOLUTION #2025-06: Finance Clerk Larson presented the budget amendment to the board. FC Larson expressed that this adjustment to the budget is commonly made by the district following the completion of the annual audit. The impact of hurricane season was also emphasized. Commissioner Jennis pointed out that the amendment was just a normal housekeeping thing and that a vehicle for prevention was essential. Commissioner Tindall called the amendment cut and dry. Commissioner Jennis made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bennet. A roll call vote was performed. Commissioner Tindall- yes, Commissioner Bennett- yes, Commissioner Warner- yes, Commissioner Jennis- yes, Chairman Burke- yes.

1ST PUBLIC HEARING 2025-2026 BUDGET – RESOLUTION #2025-07: Chief Rigney thanked Finance Clerk Larson for completing Administrative Assistant Wright’s duties while she is out of office. Chief Rigney reminded the board that there will be no vote tonight. The budget will be voted on at the next meeting. Chief Rigney briefly touched on the district’s goals, based off of the district’s strategic plan, and the district’s planned capital purchases for fiscal year 2025-2026. Commissioner Tindall thanked staff for making the budget so easy to understand.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Chief Rigney requested that the possible acquisition of a Bradenton Beach property be added to new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Tindall; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Resiliency Committee Update: The president of the local IAFF chapter, Jason Berzowski, gave a presentation on the process of implementing Ad Valorem tax assessments and the union’s part in the education of the public. Mr. Berzowski recommended putting a cap on the millage rate. The board directed staff to return to the next meeting with the pros and cons of entering this issue in the March/April vote and the August vote. Commissioner Jennis asked that the title of this topic be changed to “Ad Valorem Discussion.”

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bradenton Beach Property: Chief Rigney told the board that a property in Bradenton Beach for a good deal. Chief Rigney asked the board for guidance in bringing back a contract to purchase the property. Commissioner Tindall motioned to have staff procure a contract for the board to see; seconded by Commissioner Bennett. The board deliberated. Chairman Burke commented on the valuable location. Commissioner Jennis questioned the value of adding another station on the island. The board voted on the motion; Commissioner Tindall – yes, Commissioner Bennett – yes, Commissioner Warner – yes, Commissioner Jennis – no, Chairman Burke – yes.

CHIEF’S REPORT: Chief Kwiatkowski invited the commissioners and the public to the unveiling of the 25th Anniversary timeline mural. The mural, displayed prominently in the main hallway, captures the first quarter-century of WMFR’s history and growth. From the District’s earliest days to today’s advances in training,

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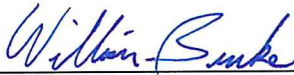
equipment, and community engagement, the timeline highlights the milestones, achievements, and moments that have defined WMFR.

OTHER REPORTS: None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Warner pointed out that he was eager to see the Timeline Wall. Commissioner Jennis shared this eagerness. Commissioner Tindall was also excited to see the wall and commented on the great things happening at WMFR and how proud she is to be a part of the district. Commissioner Burke thanked Jason Berzowski for attending the meeting and thanked the firefighters for all they do.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration building. Tax Appeals Hearing, Budget Adoption and Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Burke adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary

