

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

*Minutes of July 21, 2026
Administration Building*

Special Presentation: Chief Rigney presented an Above & Beyond Award to Manatee County Director of Public Safety, Jodie Fiske, for her work and coordination to create the Florida Task Force 11 (FL-TF11). FL-TF11 is a multi-agency technical rescue team formed by Manatee County Public Safety and the Fire Districts in Manatee County.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. with the following members present: Dana Tindall, Robert Bennett, Larry Jennis, Derrick Warner, and Billy Burke. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Chief Rigney stated the new employee swearing-in for Nicholas Hopkins and Hayden Taylor will be moved to next month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Finance Clerk (FC) Larson stated that the District received a thank you letter from the Early Learning Coalition. The letter expressed thanks for the District's participation in the Summer 2026 Officer Friendly Program, during which Commissioners Burke, Tindall, and Warner read to Toad Hall students.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Dogs Inc. Therapy Dog – Battalion Chief (BC) Brunner formally introduced Walker, WMFR's newest member and Therapy Dog. BC Brunner explained what Walker does. He then stated that Walker's addition has been very positive for the District and its personnel. BC Brunner thanked Right on Target for embroidering Walker's vest free of charge. FC Larson then administered the new employee oath to Walker.
- B. Commission Meeting Time – Chief Rigney stated that Commissioner Tindall met with the Events Committee to discuss one of the concerns, promotions. The committee is still discussing options in case the meeting time changes. Members of the Board expressed their flexibility and willingness to adopt whatever solution the Events Committee proposes. Chairman Jennis stated that he likes the idea of keeping it after business hours to give the public the most opportunity to attend. The Board agreed to table this matter.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney congratulated Deputy Chief (DC) Johnson for getting accepted into the Leadership Manatee program and reminded the Board that Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski will be starting the EFO program next month at the National Fire Academy. FM Kwiatkowski stated Lieutenant Inspector Adkins was appointed to the Board of the Integration Association of Florida. FM Kwiatkowski said that the NFPA invited the Bureau to its monthly Community Risk Reduction Kitchen Table Podcast, scheduled for September. DC Johnson recognized Lt. Inspector Adkins for his compassion and service to the community, noting that he recently observed him speaking with a woman who appeared to be experiencing homelessness and learned that Adkins had purchased

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dog food for her. He further noted that Adkins had been assisting the woman and her dog in this manner for the past several months. The Board thanked Lt. Inspector Adkins for his actions.

OTHER REPORTS: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Warner expressed his shock at the graphic depiction of the TPLEs in our District from the article FM Kwiatkowski published and noted how it affects the voter base and vacationer safety. Commissioner Bennett praised how far the Bureau has come in the District and the positive impact it has on the community. Commissioner Tindall noted that it was an enlightening experience to participate in public outreach on July 4th weekend and to attend the Holmes Beach Stakeholders meeting. Commissioner Burke thanked the Early Learning Coalition for allowing him to read at Toad Hall and echoed the Board's comments on TPLEs.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

