

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

*Minutes of May 19, 2026
Administration Building*

Special Presentation: Casey Fischbach was pinned and promoted to 1st Class Firefighter, effective April 29, 2026.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. with the following members present: Robert Bennett, Larry Jennis, Derrick Warner, and Billy Burke. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

Chairman Jennis noted that Commissioner Tindall is attending via Zoom.

2024/2025 AUDIT PRESENTATION: Bo Slemmons presented the 2024/2025 Audit. They had no difficulties in communication with District staff, no disagreements, and no deficiencies. Mr. Slemmons stated that the District was compliant and that the report was clean.

PUBLIC HEARING 2026 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL: Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright verified that public notice was advertised in The Bradenton Herald on Sunday, May 10, 2026, and read the resolution summary. Chief Rigney reported that the Personal Income Growth (PIG) rate is 8% and noted that, after discussions with neighboring fire districts, most have adopted the maximum allowable increase. He reminded the Board that at the previous meeting, Staff was directed to return with a resolution reflecting a 7.9% assessment increase. Chief Rigney also advised that, following consultation with legal counsel, an appeal provision was added to the resolution. Chairman Jennis opened the public hearing for public comments; there were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Burke. Commissioner Warner motioned to approve the 2026 Preliminary Assessment Roll - Resolution 2026-03 as presented with a 7.9% increase. Commissioner Bennett seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Burke - yes, Commissioner Bennett - yes, Commissioner Warner - yes, Chairman Jennis - yes. Motion passed 4-0.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright stated we received thank-you cards from Pam and Donna Reed expressing appreciation for the Brian Reed Annual Homecoming Celebration. The District also received a generous \$1,000 donation from Kathy and Reuben Shaffer to help support the District's Therapy Dog program.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney reminded the Board that Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski was accepted into the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program and that his first class begins in August. FM Kwiatkowski recognized Bureau Administrator (BA) Leissler for delivering a national webinar for KidKare on how to present the fire safety book *No Dragons for Tea* to children. FM Kwiatkowski explained that the webinar was watched by 869 childcare providers and was watched live from 49 states. FM Kwiatkoski stated this was KidKare's most-attended, most-rewatched, and most-downloaded webinar in the company's history.

OTHER REPORTS: Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright reminded the Board that financial disclosures are due by July 1st and reminded them to complete their annual ethics training.

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COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: The Board congratulated FF Fischbach on her promotion, thanked Staff and the auditors for their hard work, gave kudos to FM Kwiatkowski for the EFO program, and expressed excitement for the national audience BA Leissler had for his webinar.

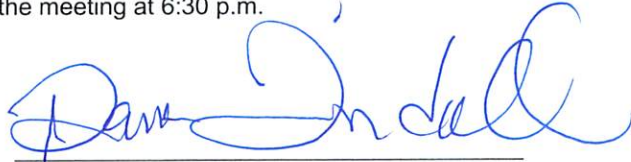
NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman



Secretary



(Seal)

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(2011)

Signature

Signature

Printed Name

Printed Name

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