

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

*Minutes of June 16, 2026
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Tindall from the May 19th Commission Meeting; Seconded by Commissioner Burke; Motion passed unanimously.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright stated that Ms. Gayle Gregorzek submitted letters of appreciation recognizing Inspector Cierra Price, Fire Marshal Kwiatkowski, Chief Rigney, and WMFR personnel for their professionalism, responsiveness, and outstanding customer service related to a hydrant replacement project on Perico Island.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Commission Meeting Time – Chief Rigney proposed changing the meeting time from 6 pm to 9 am, beginning in July. Chief Rigney explained that this will help reduce staff overtime and allow documents to be uploaded immediately after the meeting, rather than waiting until the following day. The Board agreed that this should be considered further, primarily to recognize awards and promotions when families are better able to attend. Chief Rigney asked whether Commissioner Tindall and the Events Committee could explore options for changing how we recognize awards and promotions throughout the year. Commissioner Tindall agreed.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney congratulated Commissioners Tindall and Bennett on earning their Certified District Official (CDO) certification through FASD, noting that this is the first time all five Commissioners are CDO-certified. He also announced that Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski will begin the EFO program in August. Chief Rigney recognized Deputy Chief (DC) Johnson for his work with Manatee County Director of Public Safety Jodie Fiske in developing a countywide task force, which the County Commission approved on June 16, 2026, with \$2.5 million in funding over the next five years. DC Johnson thanked the Board for its support, noted that Director Fiske has been great to work with throughout the process, and shared that the team will be designated as Florida State Task Force 11. FM Kwiatkowski reported that three members attended the Community Risk Reduction Conference, that he participated in an interview with the Suncoast View, and that he anticipates additional media opportunities. FM Kwiatkowski informed the Board that the Bureau is working to streamline the local Fire Prevention Code ordinance and that a hurricane preparedness presentation was delivered on Anna Maria Island. He also shared that a child involved in a recent near-drowning incident has been released from the hospital and recently visited Station 1.

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OTHER REPORTS: AA Wright reported that all Board Members have completed their annual ethics training and reminded the Board that annual financial disclosures are due by July 1st.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Burke congratulated DC Johnson on the Task Force and thanked Inspector Price for her efforts, as reflected in the communications. Commissioner Tindall expressed pride in being part of the Board and in becoming a CDO. Commissioner Bennett thanked staff for the opportunity to attend the FASD Conference and called it a valuable educational and networking event. Commissioner Warner reflected on the rising call volume and high-acuity incidents, highlighting the crews' outstanding performance during a recent extrication.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

