

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

*Minutes of May 19, 2020
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. with the following members present: Randy Cooper, Al Robinson at administration building. Larry Jennis and George Harris remotely. David Bishop had excused absence. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: 2018-2019 Audit Report by Randy Dillingham. Mr. Dillingham reported that the audit was a clean report with an unmodified opinion which is the best you can get. There was a net change of \$577,710 in fund balance.

PUBLIC HEARING 2020 FIRE ASSESSMENT RATES: Chairman Cooper opened the public hearing for Resolution 2020-02. Administrative Manager Kichar verified it was published in the Bradenton Herald on 5/12/20. Chief Rigney stated he was tasked last month to bring back 3 resolutions. He stated that in order to account for increase in expenses we will need to increase assessment by \$189,436. This would result in a 2.6% increase. He also stated that due to the uncertainty with the future market, upcoming contract negotiations, and planning for future expenses past this upcoming budget year, he still recommends raising the assessment by 4%. Chairman Cooper opened for public comment; there was none. Commissioner Robinson stated that we never overspend and is not in favor of raising anything. He stated why should we ding the taxpayers every year. Commissioner Jennis wanted to remind taxpayers that we are not allowed to spend more than we budget and having a carryover is not a bad thing, it is a good thing. Commissioner Harris stated it is very evident that our staff has been frugal in spending taxpayer dollars and believes the board makes a sound decision each year concerning assessment rates. Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept option A of 0%; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Discussion followed. Commissioner Harris withdrew his 2nd and Commissioner Robinson withdrew his motion. The board then decided to rank the resolutions. Commissioner Robinson ranked as follows: #1 for 0%; #2 for 2.6%; #3 for 4%. Commissioner Harris ranked as follows: #1 for 2.6%; #2 for 0%; #3 for 4%. Commissioner Jennis ranked as follows: #1 for 4%; #2 for 2.6%; #3 for 0% he would not support at all. Chairman Cooper ranked as follows: #1 for 2.6%; #2 for 4%; #3 for 0%. Commissioner Harris motioned to certify the ranking and approve the 2.6% rate increase for the 2020 assessment; seconded by Commissioner Jennis. Chairman Cooper called for a roll call vote. Commissioner Robinson – no, Commissioner Harris – yes, Commissioner Jennis – yes, Chairman Cooper – yes. Motion passed 3-1

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Harris 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:* Chairman Cooper stated that Commissioner Robinson had a presentation. Realtor Dan Douglass discussed information concerning a shell building that was discussed in previous meeting. The shell property does not meet the hardened hurricane force wind load that we have been wanting, but it has sprinklers, a ceiling and air conditioning already installed. He stated that the three units could be purchased for \$549,000 and would cost approximately \$614,000 to build out as office space. This does not include condo fees associated with the property and he did not have a figure on that at this time. Commissioner Robinson urged the other board members to look at the property. Chairman Cooper stated he was concerned with the lack of ability to store or stage equipment. Commissioner Jennis stated that the building is not hardened and does not have adequate parking space. Commissioner Harris stated

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that there are a lot of downsides here. It is not hardened to be used as an EOC and it is well outside of our district. Discussion on presentation ended. Chief Rigney stated that he has received preliminary numbers if we were to decide to obtain a Special Assessment Revenue Note for the new administration building. The numbers are based off a \$1,000,000 note with a 10-year payoff. The figures are as follows: Bond Attorney \$5,000; General Counsel \$1,000; Bank Fee \$3,000-\$5,000; Loan current rate at 3% which is subject to change. It would equate to about \$117,000 per year and would cost the district roughly an extra \$171,000 over the ten-year note. Last year the old note was paid off in the amount of \$744,418 with a loan rate of 2.65%. Chief Rigney stated he felt we had enough in reserves to pay with cash but will continue pursuing a new revenue note if it is the will of the board. Everything else is moving along and we expect to have a GMP (gross maximum price) for the construction in August.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. *Capital Gear Replacement:* B.C. Johnson went over the summary from the meeting package and stated that we have begun to adapt and adopt the initiatives to fight against the development of cancer and that purchasing a second set of gear, apparatus and stations do not get contaminated by the chemical off gassing of the gear. He stated that this is a reallocation of capital funds and does not require any increase. Commissioner Harris stated that this is a no brainer and he motioned to approve the reallocation for the gear purchase; seconded by Commissioner Jennis; motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney stated the new engine has arrived and the committee inspected it today. We should take ownership within the next few weeks and then will begin training the firefighters to operate it before placing into service. He stated that we sent 7 members down to Collier County to assist with battling the brush fires last week. This began on Wednesday and they all returned safely home on Friday night.

BC Johnson reported on COVID-19. He stated operationally we are still responding as reported at last meeting. We have continued to screen our personnel. We are keeping a clean and healthy work environment.

OTHER REPORTS: Administrative Manager Kichar reminded members that they should be receiving their financial disclosures in the mail and that they are due by July 1st.

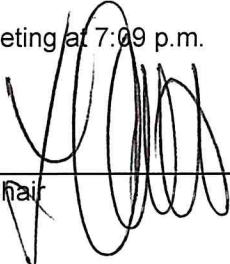
COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Robinson requested the press to comment on this administration building and what it is going to cost. He stated he did not think we are taking it seriously enough and we have a fiduciary responsibility. Commissioner Jennis stated that the members of the board take their fiduciary responsibility very seriously and he has a lot of respect and admiration for this board and its integrity and honesty. We are acting in the interest of the taxpayers, the department, and the interest of public safety. He also wanted to thank the members of the strike team that went to Collier County.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.



Chairman



Vice-Chair

