

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

*Minutes of November 19, 2019
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: David Bishop, Larry Jennis, Al Robinson, Randy Cooper and George Harris. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath. Chairman Bishop announced that anyone wishing to provide public comment on any of the agenda items should fill out a Comment Card located at the table by the door and hand them in to the Chief.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Oath of Office was administered to new employees Aaron Reese and David Stark. Clayton Lease was promoted to 3rd Class Firefighter. Jay Johnson was promoted to Administrative Battalion Chief. Phoenix Awards were presented to Firefighter Corry Hill, Firefighter/Paramedic Zach Benshoff, Firefighter/Paramedic Cameron Frazier and Captain James Leigh.

Chairman Bishop recessed the meeting until 6:17 p.m.

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. *New Administration Building:* Chief Rigney reported that on November 20th at City of Bradenton there will be the counsel meeting which we are hoping to receive our special use permit. He stated he also has the Hall Architect Contract for review. He has been negotiating with them and what is presented is a fair amount. Staff makes recommendation that we approve the contract with Hall Darling Design Studio as presented. Cooper motioned to approve the contract with Hall Darling Design Studio as presented; seconded by Commissioner Jennis. Discussion followed. Commissioner Robinson stated we sold a huge building across the street and we are turning around and building another huge building for \$1.4 million. He stated that he has a fiduciary responsibility and this thing stinks. Commissioner Harris stated he wanted to be clear that by approving this we are not putting a shovel into the ground. Chairman Bishop stated we are committing money for the design. Commissioner Harris stated he still maintains that he doesn't know if it is the right time to build, can't say that it is and can't say that it isn't. Discussion ended. Roll call followed. Jennis-yes; Cooper-yes; Harris-yes; Robinson-no; Bishop-yes. Motion passed 4-1. Chief Rigney stated that we need to go out for Contract Manager at Risk next. The RFQ would be due on January 7th. short list committee would meet to review and score. The presentations would be at the 1/21 board meeting at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Bishop stated that the only thing obligated to pay for would be pre-construction services. Commissioner Harris motioned to advertise for RFQ for Contract Manager at Risk; seconded by Commissioner Cooper. Discussion followed. Commissioner Robinson stated that Chief Rigney has told us that the \$1.4M including land is not enough. Chief Rigney stated that they have come

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back with a smaller building of 3,800 SF. He also stated that we have been telling everyone what our budget is. Chairman Bishop stated we are a public entity and we have no choice than to disclose. Discussion ended. Roll call followed. Jennis-yes; Cooper-yes; Harris-yes; Robinson-no; Bishop-yes. Motion passed 4-1. Chief Rigney stated that he would like to assign a board liaison. Chairman Bishop stated he would defer to new Chair once elected. Came back to this agenda item after Board Elections were done. Commissioner Cooper was elected as Chair. Commissioner Cooper volunteered to be liaison.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *New Legal Counsel:* Chief Rigney stated that the District's attorney Jim Dye is set to retire at the end of year. He has asked around at the Manatee County Chief's meeting and almost everyone is using Maggie Mooney. Chief Rigney stated he had the honor to hear her speak at the Florida Association of Special District annual meeting. Ms. Mooney presented her engagement letter. She stated she bills hourly, the same government rate as all other governments that she charges. Commissioner Harris motioned to approve agreement of Persson, Cohen & Mooney as general counsel; seconded by Commissioner Cooper; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Mooney stated that now that she is our general counsel, she needs to bring to the Board that we have a threat of pending litigation. We will be the first test case to go before the Manatee County Fire Code Appeals Board. If a lawsuit moves forward, Ms. Mooney stated she is recommending a special litigation firm to handle it. She requests that the Chair give permission for the Chief to enter into a contract with special counsel. Commissioner Harris motioned to allow Chief Rigney to enter into a contract with special counsel; seconded by Commissioner Jennis. Discussion followed. Commissioner Harris asked that once it is turned over to special counsel will Ms. Mooney still be involved. Ms. Mooney stated yes more in a supportive role. Commissioner Cooper asked how will the appeals board decision effect the litigation. Ms. Mooney stated that they would need to exhaust administrative remedies first. Discussion ended. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. *Bank Signers:* Chief Rigney stated that new resolutions need to be completed for the bank to remove retired Chief Sousa from accounts. Commissioner Robinson motion to remove Thomas Sousa from all bank accounts; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously.
- C. *Board Elections:* Chairman Bishop stated he would like to ask the current Vice-Chair if he would serve as Chair. Commissioner Harris nominated Commissioner Cooper as Chair; Commissioner Harris closed nominations; unanimous ballot was cast. Commissioner Cooper nominated Commissioner Jennis as Vice-Chair; Commissioner Harris closed the nominations; unanimous ballot was cast. Commissioner Robinson nominated Commissioner Harris as Secretary-Treasurer; Commissioner Robinson closed the nominations; unanimous ballot was cast.
- D. *2020 Meeting Dates:* Commissioner Harris motioned to approve the 2020 meeting dates and forgo this December's meeting; seconded by Commissioner Robinson. Discussion followed. Commissioner Jennis stated he was concerned about not having the December meeting with all that is going on. Commissioner Harris stated we could call a special meeting if we needed one. Discussion ended. Motion passed unanimously.

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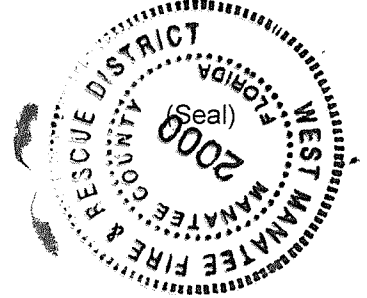
CHIEF'S REPORT: Administrative Battalion Chief Johnson reported that the open house was the biggest success with over 2,000 people attending. Fire Prevention did an outstanding job getting to all the schools for Fire Prevention month. There were multiple donations for the open house. Donations were received by Winn Dixie, Domino's Pizza and Blake Hospital.

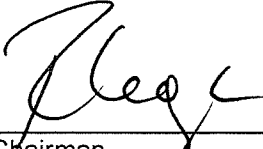
OTHER REPORTS: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Cooper thanked everyone that participated in the open house and stated it was a good turnout. Commissioner Robinson stated he attended the Barrier Island's Election Official's meeting today. There was not much to report on it. Chairman Bishop thanked the board members for another good year.

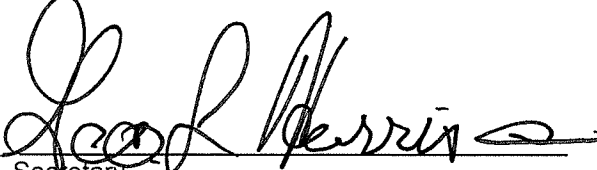
NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Bishop adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.





Chairman



Secretary