

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

*Minutes of April 21, 2020
Virtual Meeting*

The remote meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. with the following members present remotely: Randy Cooper, David Bishop, George Harris, Larry Jennis, and Al Robinson. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath. Chairman Cooper announced that anyone wishing to provide public comment to please announce themselves.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: New Business A) Assessment Rate Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Harris motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Jennis; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. *New Administration Building:* Chief Rigney showed a timeline of the project. This began about 3 ½ years ago on a decision to sell and build a new administration building. This has been researched and well planned out over this time. Staff and I are ready to complete this project. There were 3 goals for the new administration building: smaller building, case hardened structure and work on getting out of debt. Only debt service currently is Station 1. The committee has met with Hall Architect. Chief Rigney showed the preliminary design of the building. It is a basic design. The biggest hurdle was what we initially budgeted for this project. The price for this is \$1,469,708 which includes a 10% contingency for the unforeseen and the stabilized surface. The contingency should go down as we build. He stated he feels comfortable that we can afford with the use of our reserves and without any debt. We do not have the GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) yet so there is no need for a vote but looking for direction to move forward with this building design. We should have the GMP in August and then permitting would go through October. Chairman Cooper stated that he has met with Chief and committee members with the architects and this is one of the better floorplans. Commissioner Jennis asked if impact fee funds can be used for this project. Chief Rigney stated yes, they can, and we would be expending those funds for it. Chairman Cooper stated the architects did a good job and it is well thought out and the building is minimal but functional and would be good for resale. Chief Rigney stated this is pretty much the final floorplan and is based on a Category 5 Hurricane speed. Commissioner Bishop stated that the layout and design are pretty straight forward and in normal economic times paying it out of reserves made a lot of sense, in these uncertain times the responsible thing to do would be to borrow money to complete this project. Commissioner Harris stated borrowing should not be necessary, we should be able to finance this ourselves. We could always borrow later if we needed. He stated one of his concerns has been not to borrow money and put the District further into debt. We may be going into a market that is cheaper to build. Commissioner Jennis stated he agrees with Commissioner Bishop and is not averse to borrowing money. Chairman Cooper stated we have enough in reserves to pay for the building. Chief Rigney stated he would like direction to proceed with the layout and price. Commissioner Robinson stated he is in favor of borrowing the money. He then inquired as to what the total cost was with everything added. Chief Rigney stated that the basic building, lot, preparation of the lot the total is about \$1,800,000 - \$1,900,000. Commissioner Robinson asked how much per sq. ft. Chief Rigney stated about \$490 sq. ft. Commissioner Robinson stated this is absurd and

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stated we need to table this and go back to the drawing board. Commissioner Bishop stated that the per sq. ft. seems high, this is not just the building, it is site work, the land and to be honest it is probably about right. Commissioner Robinson stated we did not do due diligence. Commissioner Jennis stated that he disagrees with Commissioner Robinson and stated that we have done a good job in researching buildings. This is a specialty building and has to be usable after a Category 5 Hurricane. The plan is very cost effective. Commissioner Harris stated he thinks we need to move forward and get this thing going. Chief Rigney stated we should have the GMP in August. Commissioner Robinson stated it is \$1,900,000 and \$490 a sq. ft.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Rate Assessment Discussion:* Chief Rigney stated this is further discussion from the workshop. He stated he is was looking for guidance as to what rate to bring to next month's meeting. Chairman Cooper stated that he feels Option A for a 0% is out of the picture. Option D for 5.46% is high and Option B for 2.6% and Option C for 4% should be looked at. He stated that Option C is better option. Commissioner Harris stated that he concurs, and that Option A & Option D should be eliminated. Commissioner Jennis stated he likes Option C the best and does not see it being unreasonable at all. Commissioner Bishop stated he would not support Option D. Commissioner Robinson asked Chief Rigney that at the end of last year, how much money did we have extra. Chief Rigney stated that there was \$577,000. Commissioner Robinson stated he wanted to know how much excluding capital expenses from the general operating budget were not spent. Chief Rigney stated he does not have that figure at this time to provide. Commissioner Robinson stated he challenges someone to look at the last 5 years. He stated to keep Option A on the table. Chairman Cooper asked if someone wanted to bring a motion to what options should be brought to next month's meeting. Commissioner Robinson motioned to bring a resolution for Option A to next month's meeting; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; discussion followed. After further discussion Commissioner Robinson withdrew his motion; Commissioner Bishop withdrew his second. Chairman Cooper requested for Chief Rigney to bring Resolutions for Options A, B & C to next month's meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT: B.C. Jasinski stated that he was in contact with a department in N.C. that was previously interested in the surplus engine, however it is too big for them. He will further check into this or selling it. B.C. Johnson went over COVID-19. He stated that it is our goal to have zero employees and their families to contract COVID-19. He believes we can do this. We have set up three objectives to reaching this goal: understanding the virus; treat this as a State of Emergency and operate in that capacity; adopt clean habits. Chief Rigney wanted to thank everyone for the last 2 hours spent.

OTHER REPORTS: None

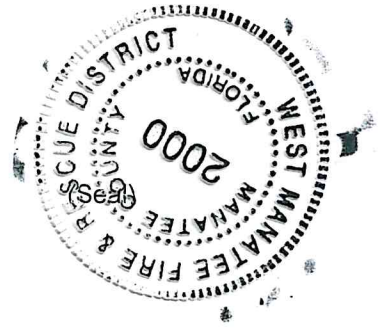
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COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bishop wanted to thank everyone for good deliberations and for keeping options on the table; Commissioner Harris stated he echoed what Commissioner Bishop said and wanted to thank everyone and for all to be well; Commissioner Jennis wanted to thank staff for the excellent mid-year budget review presentation and for BC's Johnson's COVID review; Chairman Cooper wanted to recognize staff for the work done on the presentation. He also announced that after 12 years being on the Board, he would not be running for re-election this November. He stated it has been an incredible experience and it has been a pleasure.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.





Chairman



Secretary