

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

*Minutes of January 18, 2022
Administration Building*

Oath of Office was administered to new employees, Jeffery Beghtel and Kaitlyn Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop, Al Robinson and George Harris. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

Chairman Jennis asked if there was a motion to approve the excused absence for Commissioner Harris from the October 19th and November 16th, 2021, meetings. Commissioner Bishop motioned: seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Harris abstaining. Chairman Jennis asked if there was a motion to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Robinson from the November 16th, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Bishop motioned: seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Robinson abstaining.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Rich Paquelet of unincorporated Manatee County, had a public comment. He stated that he had concerns about his neighbor's short-term rental property and their occupancy. His question to the board was can we treat short term rentals like we do hotels when it comes to occupancy, in this case being over occupancy limits. Commissioner Bishop and Commissioner Harris both expressed their sympathies with the situation. Commissioner Bishop stated that because it is a single-family residence, occupancy cannot be enforced by the fire department. He said it would be in the hands of the municipality and is a land use issue. Commissioner Harris stated that Manatee County is not a Charter Government, so codes like this cannot be established.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Administrative Assistant Wright read one communication to the board. The communication was an appreciation email to Fire Chief Rigney from a local business owner regarding Fire Marshall Rodney Kwiatkowski. The business owner stressed that the positive impact and compassionate assistance provided by the Fire Marshal was much appreciated.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. *Committee Appointments:* Chairman Jennis confirmed following appointments: Manatee County Fire Chief's Association – Commissioner Bennett and alternate Chairman Jennis. Barrier Island Elected Officials – Commissioner Robinson. Awards/Appreciation – Commissioner Bishop. Safety Committee – Commissioner Harris.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney reported that ISO will be reviewing WMFR on February 9th, 2022, at 1 pm. The last time ISO came was in 2017. WMFR was rated a score of 2. Chief Rigney predicts that the districts score will remain at a 2 following the February 2022 visit. Chief Rigney also stated to the board that there are pension documents located in the back of the board packet for their reference. Deputy Chief Johnson gave a COVID update. He stated that there is a recent spike in numbers, a 29% positivity rate in the county. Due to the spike, WMFR employees have been placed on a 14-day mandate to wear masks if they are unable to socially distance.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bishop stated that now that it is season, he is noticing a lot of improper parking in fire lanes around the district. He suggested that we need to consider educating the

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public on the safety risks actions like this pose. Commissioner Harris stated that in St Pete, they would place flyers on the windshields of cars parked in fire lanes as a warning.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

(Seal)

