

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

*Minutes of November 15, 2022
Administration Building*

Administrative Manager, Julie Kichar's retirement was recognized with a retirement award and an award for her 25 years of service. She officially retires in January of 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop, Billy Burke, and Derrick Warner. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

Administrative Assistant Wright administered the Oath of Office to new Commissioners' Burke and Warner and the re-elected Commissioner Bishop.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Board Elections: Commissioner Bishop nominated Commissioner Bennett for Chair; Commissioner Bennett accepted; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Bishop nominated Commissioner Warner for Vice-Chair; Commissioner Warner accepted; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Bishop nominated Commissioner Burke for Secretary-Treasurer; Commissioner Burke accepted; motion passed unanimously.
- B. 2023 Meeting Dates: Administrative Assistant Wright explained that the 2023 Meeting Dates are just as usual with meetings falling on the third Tuesday of each month, aside from September which is the second Tuesday due to Tax Roll deadlines. Commissioner Warner motioned to approve the 2023 Meeting Dates as presented; seconded by Commissioner Burke; motion passed unanimously.
- C. December Meeting: Chief Rigney explained that the District has nothing pressing for the month of December and recommended the meeting be cancelled. Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve the cancelation of the December 20, 2022 Commission Meeting; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.
- D. Pension Board Appointment: Chief Rigney stated that Stewart Moon, a Board appointed member of the Firefighters' Retirement Pension Board, is up for reappointment as his current four year term is ending in January. Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve the reappointment of Stewart Moon to the West Manatee Fire & Rescue District Firefighters' Retirement Pension Board; seconded by Commissioner Warner. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. New District Vehicle Purchase: Chief Rigney explained that the District planned to utilize the 2007 F-250 as a temporary staff vehicle. With the mechanical issues in mind, it no longer makes financial sense to spend any more money on a 15-year-old vehicle. In January, FM Kwiatkowski will lay out his vision for inspecting short-term vacation rentals. This will require a safe and reliable vehicle. Due to a fleet vehicle shortage, other fire districts cannot secure governmental pricing within a reasonable timeframe and have turned to the best pricing from dealerships. Chief Rigney was able to locate an available red Tahoe in Atlanta, GA. Chief Rigney stated that Staff recommends the Board authorize him to spend up to \$80,000 from the Vehicle Replacement Assigned Fund, which currently has \$320,000 designated for vehicle replacement, to purchase a new staff vehicle. Commissioner Bishop approved the purchase of a new District Vehicle using monies from the Vehicle Replacement Assigned Fund; Commissioner Jennis seconded; motion passed unanimously.

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CHIEF'S REPORT: Deputy Johnson expressed his gratitude towards the community, the Board, and Chief Rigney for allowing WMFR to use its resources in Lee County in the effort to bring some sense of normalcy back to that area. He thanked the Commissioners that were able to go down and see the WMFR operations personnel in action. Commissioner Bishop spoke on his time in Lee County stating it was an eye-opening experience to see the devastation and compared Fort Myers Beach to Anna Maria Island. He applauded all WMFRs personnel that volunteered for each deployment. DC Johnson stated that as a collective, WMFR had personnel deployed to Lee County for 44 days. Chief Rigney mentioned that Fire Boat 136 was temporarily out of service during the deployment due to the fire pump being down, a temporary fix was performed. The Fire Boat is currently out of service after the lengthy deployment and will soon get a full work up and cleaning. DC Johnson listed a few of the incidents they experienced while deployed. Chairman Bennett stated this is what the Fire Service is for – to help our neighbors. He also touched on the growth he has seen in the past several years regarding emergency management during disasters such as this. Chief Rigney shared a conversation he had with the Sanibel Fire Chief stating property tax payments will likely be deferred anywhere from 6 months to a year or more. This instance is a great example of why having reserve funds is so important.

OTHER REPORTS: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bishop thanked Commissioner Jennis for his service as the Chair for the last two years and congratulated the new Commissioners. Commissioner Warner stated he is happy to be a part of a great Commission and Fire District. Commissioner Jennis thanked all of our staff for their sacrifice including those that were deployed as well as our personnel that stayed back and covered so many shifts. Commissioner Burke echoed his fellow Commissioners. He spoke on Administrative Manager Kichar's fingerprint that she placed on the District during her tenure and thanked her for the fantastic Board Member Handbook. He is honored to be a part of the District. Chairman Bennett congratulated the new Commissioners and reiterated that he is a part of a great District that boils down all the way to our Probationary Firefighters.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

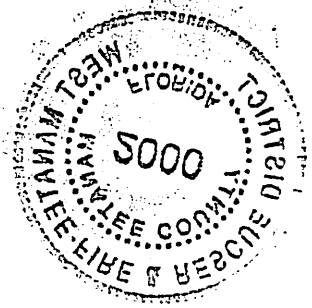


Chairman



Secretary





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