

# Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Southern Manatee Fire Rescue Admin Building, 10am

## Members Present:

Fire Marshal Rodney Kwiatkowski – WMFR  
Deputy Fire Marshal Marc Massella – CHFR  
Fire Marshal Michael Blake- EMFR  
Deputy Fire Marshal Frank Meola – SMFR  
Deputy Fire Marshal Leticia Ownbey – PFD  
Bureau Chief Andrell Miller - NRRFD  
Fire Marshal Chris Melser – BFD  
Bureau Administrator Jalex Leissler – WMFR

## Members Not Present:

Fire Marshal Jane Herrin – LKFD

## Guests Present:

Fire Chief Rocky Parker – DFR  
Lieutenant Jeanen Parker - DFR  
Loretta Merrill – Development Services  
Kris Weiskopf – Development services  
Brian Johnson – Development Services  
Rob Wenzel – Development Services  
Dana Winters – Development Services

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 10:13am by FM Kwiatkowski. The pledge of allegiance followed the call to order.**
- 2. Changes to Agenda: *There were none.***

---

### Chair

Fire Marshal Rodney Kwiatkowski  
(941) 201-7904  
kwiatkr@wmfr.org

### Vice Chair

Deputy Fire Marshal Marc Massella  
(941) 727-2076  
mmassella@chfr.org

# Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Southern Manatee Fire Rescue Admin Building, 10am

### 3. Guest Comments/Presentations:

- a. **Planning/Zoning: What is a Spec Home? – Rob Wenzel** *Mr. Wenzel began by stating that every subdivision in the county is limited to 10 model homes. He explained that exceptions were granted, but after an incident, it was decided that no more exceptions would be granted, instead spec homes became an option. The fire districts are routed the spec home plan reviews. Mr. Wenzel explained in more depth what a spec home is. He then posed the question to the group “Do we need to do more?”*

*DFM Ownbey explained that PFD and EMFR are being inundated by spec home reviews. She inquired as to a way to stop plans from coming back for re-review after they have been approved by the fire department. Dana Winters offered to take this question to her contact in development services. She did offer some insight into the fact that, on revisions the status of the review will have changed to “Revisions Received” instead of “Awaiting Review.” Ms. Winters also explained that, by going into the workflow of a project, a district is able to change the due date.*

*Mr. Wenzel reiterated (with the assistance of Loretta Merrill) that nobody will be living/operating out of a spec home until it receives its C/O.*

*DFM Ownbey mentioned that each spec home review she receives asks if a BDA is required. These are not required in any single-family residences. Business services will look into this issue.*

*FM Blake asked Mr. Wenzel about agritourism and what it would take for the district to be informed when agritourism projects begin. Mr. Wenzel informed FM Blake that these projects do not need to be permitted, so it bypasses the county.*

---

#### Chair

Fire Marshal Rodney Kwiatkowski  
(941) 201-7904  
kwiatkr@wmfr.org

#### Vice Chair

Deputy Fire Marshal Marc Massella  
(941) 727-2076  
mmassella@chfr.org

# Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Southern Manatee Fire Rescue Admin Building, 10am

## 4. Old Business:

- a. **Juvenile Firefighter Succession:** *The committee agreed that this should be removed from Old Business.*
- b. **Firework Permit Lead Time:** *FM Kwiatkowski left a message for Heather Sonntag in Code Enforcement. He is awaiting a response. This will be moved to next meeting.*
- c. **Envelope Leak Tests:** *Loretta Merrill will look into the cause of Fire Departments receiving this on plan reviews.*
- d. **Model Home Classification:** *The committee agreed that this should be removed from Old Business.*

## 5. New Business

- a. **BOA Training:** *FM Kwiatkowski mentioned that the hearing at Cedar Hammock went well. He asked if any of the other districts were interested in attending a Board of Appeals training session. There were several districts interested. It was decided that the BOA training should be done Annually in February. FM Kwiatkowski will go before the MCFCA to request funds for the next training.*
- b. **Upcoming Elections for Chair/Vice Chair:** *FM Kwiatkowski reminded the group that the Chair and Vice Chair positions are to be voted on in September. The group decided that voting at the September meeting will be done the same as it has been done in the past.*

## 6. Department Reports:

- a. **North River Fire Department:** *Nothing to Report.*

---

### Chair

Fire Marshal Rodney Kwiatkowski  
(941) 201-7904  
kwiatkr@wmfr.org

### Vice Chair

Deputy Fire Marshal Marc Massella  
(941) 727-2076  
mmassella@chfr.org

# Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Southern Manatee Fire Rescue Admin Building, 10am

- b. Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue:** *SMFR Open House to be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm at SMFR Station 3. DFM spoke of a CBD Extraction company that is trying to take over a building in his district. When the use of the building was discovered, DFM Meola halted the process in order to get a third party review. Local third party companies declined to review the plans. DFM Meola found a third party company in Washington state that will review the plans. DFM also spoke on the issue with Lithium Ion batteries. He mentioned a recent incident where it was discovered that someone was charging 300 lithium ion batteries in an un-sprinklered office building. DFM also touched on the Food Truck Ordinance from the county. He spoke of a recent event in which, of 11 food trucks inspected, 9 failed.*
- c. East Manatee Fire & Rescue:** *Nothing to report.*
- d. Parrish Fire Department:** *DFM Ownbey warned the group to be wary of new developments being built by big companies. She spoke of a recent incident in which it was discovered that a large community that was being constructed was only receiving 800gpm out of its hydrants. DFM promptly put the company on notice until the issue was solved.*
- e. Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue:** *DFM Massella spoke about the recent appeal hearing between Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue and Second Heart Homes. He mentioned he is still dealing with the aftermath, trying to get Second Heart Homes into compliance. DFM Massella also spoke about an incident over the weekend where a citizen lost his hand to a firework mishandling.*
- f. West Manatee Fire Rescue:** *Nothing to report.*

---

## Chair

Fire Marshal Rodney Kwiatkowski  
(941) 201-7904  
kwiatkr@wmfr.org

## Vice Chair

Deputy Fire Marshal Marc Massella  
(941) 727-2076  
mmassella@chfr.org

# Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Southern Manatee Fire Rescue Admin Building, 10am

- g. Bradenton Fire Department:** *FM Melser spoke of a recent lithium ion fire in his district. He was questioned by members of the public as to the lack of education on the subject. FM Melser suggested we add the subject to New Business and discuss possible education opportunities on the subject.*
  - h. Duette Fire Rescue:** *FC Parker introduced the committee to Lt. Jeaneen Parker, who will be representing DFR at future meetings.*
- 7. Next Meeting:** *August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10am – East Manatee Fire Rescue.*
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am by FM Kwiatkowski.**

---

## Chair

Fire Marshal Rodney Kwiatkowski  
(941) 201-7904  
kwiatkr@wmfr.org

## Vice Chair

Deputy Fire Marshal Marc Massella  
(941) 727-2076  
mmassella@chfr.org