

# Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

West Manatee Fire Rescue Admin Building, 10am

## Members Present:

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

## Members Not Present:

Deputy Fire Marshal Frank Meola – SMFR  
Fire Marshal Jane Herrin – LKFD

## Guests Present:

Inspector Cierra Price - NFRD  
Loretta Merrill – Development Services  
Scott Ehrhart – Development Services

1. **The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by FM Kwiatkowski. The pledge of allegiance followed the call to order.**
2. **Changes to Agenda:** *The planned presentation by Rob Wenzel has been moved to June's meeting.*
3. **Guest Comments/Presentations:**
  - a. **Planning/Zoning:** *The planned presentation by Rob Wenzel has been moved to June's meeting.*

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### Chair

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

### Vice Chair

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

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## 4. Old Business:

- a. **Juvenile Firefighter Succession:** *Southern Manatee not represented. It is speculated that FM Meola has a succession plan. The committee has requested that before Inspector Washington's retirement, he go over the process with everyone who wants to learn it. DFM Ownbey expressed that a member of her team may be interested in the program.*
- b. **Firework Permit Lead Time:** *FM Blake inquired as to the Lead Time for Firework Permits at other districts. DFM Massella pointed out that Code Enforcement has a 15 day minimum. FM Blake expressed that he would like to set a baseline used by all. Perhaps something in writing. DFM Massella suggested using the 15 day minimum that Code Enforcement uses. FM Melser told the group that his lead time for everything is 7 days. There was some general discussion about whether or not a permit should be denied for not following the lead time. The committee decided on a lead time of 30 days. It was also decided to reach out to Heather Sonntag in Code Enforcement regarding their process and to request simultaneous review.*
- c. **Mobile Food Vendors Decal:** *The committee decided to use the design featuring "Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee."*

## 5. New Business

- a. **Townhomes:** *FM Blake opened the floor to discussion about townhomes. FM Melser talked about how he is requiring townhomes to sprinkle, due to the fact that they do not have proper fire separation and are therefore technically apartments. FM Blake also verified that he is correct in thinking that a 3-floor townhome with a balcony on top would have 4 usable floors and would be required to have a standpipe system.*

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- b. **Hood Testing:** *It was brought to the committee's attention that the county will not come to a Hood Suppression test unless a smoke machine is present. It was requested that the main Mechanical Reviewer be contacted and asked to attend the next Fire Marshal meeting.*
- c. **Smoke Alarms:** *The committee discussed a recent call most of them received regarding the new requirement for any residential apartment or structure where people sleep to have low frequency smoke alarms. The new requirement is 520hz. These smoke alarms do not exist, therefore they will have to be exchanged for fire alarms. There are several references to this in building code AND fire code.*

## 6. Department Reports:

- a. **North River Fire Department:** *BC Miller informed the group that the Marriott Hotel next to the Civic Center installed a Mist Hood System. This is the first of its kind in his area.*
- b. **Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue:** *Not represented.*
- c. **East Manatee Fire & Rescue:** *Nothing to Report*
- d. **Parrish Fire Department:** *Nothing to Report*
- e. **Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue:** *DFM Massella informed the group that the CR vehicle should be finished and wrapped by May 15<sup>th</sup>. He inquired as to whether other Fire Marshals have a detailed program for Pub Ed that he can build off. DFM Ownbey and BC Miller offered to send some material.*
- f. **West Manatee Fire Rescue:** *FM Kwiatkowski informed the committee that BA Leissler had recently taken and passed his Inspector Exam. BA Leissler also plans on taking the Fire and Life Safety Educator Exam in the near future.*

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- g. **Bradenton Fire Department:** *FM Melser reported that BFD has recently had many more fires than usual.*
- 7. Next Meeting:** *June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10am- Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue*
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:09am by FM Kwiatkowski.**

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