

Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9th, 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
Lieutenant Jeaneen Parker - DFR
Bureau Administrator Jalex Leissler – WMFR

Members Not Present:

Fire Marshal Jane Herrin – LKFD

Guests Present:

Captain Mark Hoffman - ARFF
Vickie Warner – Development Services
Tracy Trahan – Development Services

1. **The meeting was called to order at 10:03am by FM Kwiatkowski. The pledge of allegiance followed the call to order.**
2. **Changes to Agenda:** *There were none.*
3. **Guest Comments/Presentations:**
 - a. **Addressing Street Waivers** *Tracy Trahan and Vickie Warner from Development Services were present. Ms. Trahan spoke about a small change being made. When applicants wish to name a street as opposed to using the numeric name, they apply for a street waiver. This use to trigger an email to be sent to several different departments.*

Chair

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

Vice Chair

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mmassella@chfr.org

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Development Services is making an effort to evaluate their processes to make the most beneficial use of everyone's time. In the future, an email for Street Waivers will not go out to the fire districts. The district may, however, still comment on this in Acella.

DFM Ownbey asked for clarification. Ms. Trahan assured her that the information on the street name will still be available in plan review and the fire department may weigh in on it. Ms. Warner informed the group that as long as the street name is not a duplicate and can be pronounced easily, it is usually not a problem. The group briefly discussed the benefits of using street names as opposed to numbers.

FM Melser asked about the legal precedent of complexes using the same or similar names. Ms. Warner agreed to send FM Melser the state statute regarding this issue.

The group was informed that there is a new addressing email used for reporting address/name changes. It is addressing@mymanatee.org. Ms. Trahan announced to the group that Friday, August 16th will be her last day with Development Services. A replacement has not been hired. She reminded the group of the Wednesday morning meetings that they are welcome to attend.

At this point, Ms. Trahan and Ms. Warner were dismissed.

4. Old Business:

- a. **Firework Permit Lead Time:** *FM Kwiatkowski left a message for Heather Sonntag in Code Enforcement several times. DFM Massella informed the group that Brad Szink no longer works with Code Enforcement. It is believed that Heather Sonntag may not as well.*
- b. **BOA Training** *The group has decided to remove this from the agenda moving forward.*

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5. New Business

- a. **Lithium Ion Battery Education:** *There will be a training on this subject in Ocala in October. FM Melser informed the group that his district responded to another Lithium-Ion fire resulting from a charging cell phone on a bed. DFM Meola spoke on several cases he has had where an e-bike company has been discovered charging lithium-ion batteries in office spaces. FM Melser suggested that the committee send out a message as a group as it will hold more weight than a singular campaign from each district. FM Kwiatkowski discussed his efforts regarding lithium-ion batteries, including knocking on doors in apartment complexes and mobile home parks and disseminating flyers. He also discussed his recent newspaper article regarding the subject. FM Melser reiterated that the group will hold more power than a single district. FM Kwiatkowski asked what the solution would be. FM Melser discussed the possibility of a press release. DFM Massella suggested using social media (a medium that CHFR does not have). It was decided that FM Kwiatkowski will invite Capt. Bloski from SMFR to the next meeting to come up with a solution between the Fire Marshal Committee and the Hazmat Team.*
- b. **Chair/Vice Chair Designation:** *FM Kwiatkowski discussed the process of voting. At September's meeting, the group will vote for a Chair/Vice Chair recommendation to bring to the Manatee County Fire Chiefs' Association. The new Chair/Vice Chair will take over in October. There will be no meeting in October. There will be a meeting in November. December's meeting will be replaced by a luncheon.*

6. Department Reports:

- a. **North River Fire Department:** *BC Miller discussed his department's effort to ramp up their social media presence in the past year. He also discussed the department's decision to go all-digital for their plan review.*

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- b. **Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue:** *DFM Meola informed the group that SMFR's Annual Open House will be taking place on October 3rd at SMFR station 3. He also commented that the county is no longer doing hydrant flow tests. There was also discussion regarding DFM Meola's ability to charge and collect fees through using Acella.*
- c. **East Manatee Fire & Rescue:** *FM Blake has been doing a lot of new construction plans review. He discussed a current case he is involved in wherein he is in the process of petitioning for an informal interpretation.*
- d. **Parrish Fire Department:** *Nothing to report.*
- e. **Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue:** *DFM Massella informed the group that an arsonist that has been an issue in the past has returned to Cedar Hammock's district after a 12 year absence. This individual has been responsible for 28 fires in the district.*

DFM Massella also informed the group that CHFR's ALF program is almost up and running.
- f. **West Manatee Fire Rescue:** *Nothing to report.*
- g. **Bradenton Fire Department:** *FM Melser spoke about the large number of records requests his department has been receiving regarding hydraulic calculations. He told the group that he spends half of his days redacting paperwork. Using the example of CHFR, he will be waiving NFPA hydraulic plate requirements.*
- h. **Duette Fire Rescue:** *Lt. Parker informed the group that there is a new solar field coming, however it has not broken ground yet.*

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- i. **Airport Rescue and Firefighting:** *Capt. Hoffman talked about how busy things have been. He stated that new projects are coming up that will develop most of the unused space in the airport. This will include 2 major aircraft manufacturers. He also spoke about taking over the Sarasota side of the airport and how much work this has created.*
7. **Next Meeting:** *September 10, 2024 at 10am – West Manatee Fire Rescue.*
8. **The meeting was adjourned at 11:24am by FM Kwiatkowski.**

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