

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

*Minutes of October 15, 2024
Administration Building*

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. with the following members present: Billy Burke, Larry Jennis, David Bishop, Robert Bennett, and Derrick Warner. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

1st PUBLIC HEARING CHAPTER 175 AMENDMENT & RESTATEMENT ORDINANCE 2025-02: AA Wright verified that public notice was advertised in The Bradenton Herald on Sunday, October 6, 2024, and read the resolution summary. Chief Rigney stated the Pension Board attorney and Union have reviewed and approved this document. Chief Rigney then explained the changes outlined in the summary and stated the 2nd reading will be held next month. Chairman Warner opened the public hearing for public comments; there were none. Commissioner Jennis motioned to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett. There was no Board deliberation. Chairman Warner adjourned the public hearing.

1st PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION CODE ORDINANCE 2025-03: AA Wright verified that public notice was advertised in The Bradenton Herald on Sunday, October 6, 2024, and read the resolution summary. Chief Rigney explained that this is the first reading with another to follow next month. Chief Rigney also stated that the Ordinance had been changed, omitting the portions referring to the edition on NFPA 1300. Chief Rigney said this falls in line with one of our goals in the Strategic Plan and stated NFPA 1300 will give the District guidance on procedures and policies to address issues the District commonly faces in the community and how to mitigate them. Chairman Warner opened the public hearing for public comments; there were none. Commissioner Jennis motioned to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Commissioner Jennis asked how this differs from our current process. Chief Rigney explained that risks have been identified, but procedures are not outlined. Commissioner Jennis and staff confirmed that this is mainly to codify what the District already does when considering boating, spring break coverage, etc. The Board agreed that this adoption will be beneficial for the next performance review as well as for neighboring districts. Commissioner Jennis asked if this would affect the ISO score to which Chief Rigney said no as the missing ISO point is due to the lack of advertising WMFR services to the residents and visitors in the District.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Burke; motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Purchase of 2 Trailers: Chief Rigney stated that a donation of \$11,000 was received for the purchase of two 6ft by 12ft enclosed tandem axel trailers. Chief Rigney explained that the trailers were useful to move equipment off the Island before Hurricane Milton. Chief Rigney stated that the trailers will be used to store the tents and portable AC units that will soon be or already have been donated from the Florida Forest Service and allow them to be mobile. Chief Rigney explained the funds were donated, however for audit purposes, to show the money coming in and out, staff requested permission to use capital funds in the amount of \$11,000 for the two trailers. Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve the use of capital funds in the amount of \$11,000 for the trailers. Seconded by Commissioner Burke. Commissioner Bishop verified there was no cost associated to which Chief Rigney stated we already received the donation to pay for them. Motion carried unanimously.

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- B. Resiliency Committee: Chief Rigney explained that the Chairman wants to create a Resiliency Committee with the purpose of looking at all our infrastructure and apparatus to ensure resiliency. Chairman Warner appointed himself as the Board liaison but requested assistance from the other Commissioners when building and apparatus specifics come up. Chief Rigney stated that he could work with the Chairman and then be the middleman when other Commissioners are involved at Chairman Warner's request. Lieutenant Inspector Miller spoke on his experience during Hurricane Helene as a part of the Regional Dispatch and how he has never experienced anything like it. DC Johnson stated Lt. Miller's recollection speaks to the need for a resiliency plan since these events are becoming the norm.

- C. Strategic Plan: Chief Rigney thanked the Strategic Plan committee including Commissioner Bishop, DC Johnson, BC Bill, Lt. Agresta, FF Medic Lease, FF Medic Gonzalez, and AA Wright. Chief Rigney then explained that the document is longer due to adding definitions throughout the plan to promote transparency and leave no room for interpretation. Chief Rigney then summarized the changes made to each portion and expressed the District's goals to improve internal and external communication, implement a community risk reduction plan, analyze and improve resiliency, and plan for succession of all positions. Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burke. Motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney reminded the Board that the Congressional Awards Ceremony recognizing Chairman Warner is on October 24th at 5:30pm at the Manatee Technical College. Chief Rigney thanked WMFR personnel and the community for the joint effort during and after Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Chief Rigney gave the Board a synopsis of the District's response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton noting station evacuations and damages to our buildings, no personnel were injured, and no vehicles were severely affected. Chief Rigney spoke on the 7 deployments that followed the storms. DC Johnson spoke on the challenges personnel faced and reiterated the seamless and effective operations of all District personnel to achieve the mission, noting the 120 rescues made during Hurricane Helene. Commissioner Bishop inquired about purchasing waders for personnel. DC Johnson stated he is coordinating with the swift water team to find the best options. Commissioner Bishop then discussed fire hydrant markers as northern states have for snow, but for sand and water. Staff is in favor of this idea and will investigate. Chairman Warner asked if a lot of response occurred in flood waters. DC Johnson and Chief Rigney answered and shed light on the challenge of flood waters and securing power.

OTHER REPORTS: None

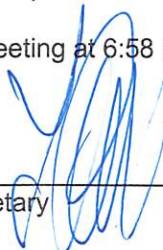
COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: The Commissioner's thanked staff and their families for the commitment during the hurricanes. Commissioner Bennett gave kudos to staff on the Strategic Plan and that it shows the effort and progressiveness of the District. Chairman Warner asked for suggestions on how to recognize WMFR personnel for their efforts through the hurricane season. Chief Rigney noted that the Annual Open House will be rescheduled due to lapse in the ability to visit schools and keep vendors following the storms.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary

(Seal)

