

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

*Minutes of October 20, 2020  
Administration Building and via Zoom*

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: Randy Cooper, David Bishop, Larry Jennis and Al Robinson at administration building. George Harris via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

**PUBLIC HEARING for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2020-06 Fire Prevention Code:** Administrative Manager Kichar read the opening of the Ordinance and verified it was published in the Bradenton Herald on October 13, 2020. FM Kwiatkowski stated that this is updated every 3 years. This is Florida specific. The Fire Marshals of the County have met this past year to review. Chairman Cooper opened for public comment. There was no public comment. Chairman Cooper closed the hearing. Commissioner Jennis motioned to accept 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2020-06; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Karen Bell from Cortez, Florida had public comment. She presented the board with packets of her complaint. She stated that one of her docks at her business suffered damage during Hurricane Irma and Michael and was completely replaced. She stated she was informed by the Fire Marshal that she was in violation for not reinstalling a standpipe system. She was requesting more time to look into this and to appeal it with the Board of Appeals. Chairman Cooper stated that the board can not overrule the fire code or the Fire Marshal. After much discussion it was discussed that the District would work with her to find a solution.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Commissioner Harris motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Robinson; motion passed unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. *Administration Building:* Chief Rigney stated that the site permit was approved on Tuesday and Wednesday they started breaking ground. We are still waiting on the building permit and should be approved next week. We are on track to be done in April. Chairman Cooper stated he would like to meet with the Chief and the contractor to do a groundbreaking photo op.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Rigney wanted to recognize Chairman Cooper for 12 years of dedicated service to the District as this is his last meeting with us. Some of the past accomplishments have been remodeling or completely replacing all 3 fire stations; have become ALS non-transport; improved public awareness of rip tides; held every position on our board along with the Manatee County Fire Commissioners Association; AED Grant; assisted in appointing 2 Fire Chiefs; spearheaded the Citizens Academy and Open Houses.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Cooper stated it is bittersweet to be leaving, but feels it is a good time to go. He complimented the other Commissioners and stated that we have good, young, smart, talented, and professional staff both administrative and firefighters. We dropped the ISO rating to a 2. We are good stewards with public dollars. He stated it has been a pleasure and a privilege.

Commissioner Harris thanked Chairman Cooper for his years of service.

Commissioner Jennis thanked Chairman Cooper for his years of service and stated he has taught him a lot.

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Commissioner Robinson asked if it was a fair assumption that the new building is going to be \$2M plus or minus? Chief Rigney stated yes. He stated the conference room was about 20% of the building. He stated we are going to have a conference room for \$400K. He asked how many lives are going to be saved and how much property is going to be saved. Chairman Cooper stated he needs to keep the staff out of it. Commissioner Jennis stated that the rules of order is for the Commissioners to address their comments to the Chair. Commissioner Robinson asked how many fire trucks is \$2M? Chairman Cooper stated ballpark costs is \$500K each. Chief Rigney stated last one we purchased was \$585K. He told Chairman Cooper he appreciated his 12 years.

Commissioner Bishop thanked Chairman Cooper for his years of service and presented him with the Chairman's Gavel plaque and an axe.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Cooper adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

(Seal)

