

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

*Minutes of October 18, 2022
Administration Building*

Civilian Service awards were given to John Banyas, Karen Bell, and Harbor Community Church for their relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Ian. The Oath of Office was administered to Training Chief Mark Tuttle.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. with the following members present: Larry Jennis, Robert Bennett, David Bishop, and Al Robinson. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence and the oath.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Zack & Renea Palen, owners of Intense Escape, LLC in Unincorporated Manatee County, had a public comment. Mr. Palen spoke on their behalf explaining that they are business owners in the District. They were unaware of many compliance issues with their business until Fire Marshal Kwiatkowski stepped in. He expressed his gratitude for the respect he received from FM Kwiatkowski and the ease of the process of becoming compliant. He stated that FM Kwiatkowski is the best compliance officer he has ever worked with.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Resignation of Commissioner Harris: Chief Rigney explained that he included emails in the meeting package stating the official Resignation Notice from Commissioner Harris. He then explained that, although the decision rests with the Board, it is the recommendation of the Supervisor of Elections Office and Staff to let Commissioner Harris' seat remain vacant considering the election will take place in November and the incoming candidate is unopposed. Commissioner Bishop stated that he understands the recommendation and agreed that it is the Chairman and the Boards decision. The Board agreed unanimously to keep the seat vacant until the new unopposed Commissioner fills the seat in November. This can be removed from Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Rigney first thanked Commissioner Robinson for his service to the District for the past 8 years. Deputy Chief Johnson then expressed his gratitude to Chief Rigney and the Board for allowing him to gain the experience of working with Manatee County as the Operations Section Chief at the EOC before, during, and in the wake of Hurricane Ian. He detailed the generosity of the donations of assistance, time, and materials that were received in Myakka during his time at the EOC. He also went into detail on how many personnel, apparatus, and supplies were involved in the Myakka recovery operation. DC Johnson lastly expressed his confidence in the future emergency response of Manatee County. FM Kwiatkowski then briefly described The Bureau's responsibilities as the West Regional Dispatch during Hurricane Ian. He noted that the EOC gives orders on when to cease operations due to wind speeds which was done the day of Hurricane Ian. During this time, the West Regional Dispatch team triaged calls as District employees were ordered not to respond. FM Kwiatkowski noted 2 of the 41 calls they received during that time, stating there was one structure fire that was a total loss and a call about a flooded vessel containing occupants. Fortunately, there was no loss of life for either of the incidents noted. All calls were responded to once conditions were safe and were completed by noon on the 29th of September. Chief Rigney then explained the deployments that the District was and is currently involved in. He stated that WMFR was involved in assisting in Myakka, was part of a County Strike Team that he lead, and currently has personnel and FB136 in Fort Myers Beach. FM Kwiatkowski then informed the Board of the upcoming Open House on November 5th. He also spoke about his new article, Fireside Chats, in The AMI Sun. This article will be dedicated to improving communication with WMFR and the community and will include information on codes, reasons why they exist, and more. Chief

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Rigney ended the Chief's comments by informing the Board that Administrative Manager Kichar gave her official retirement date as January 12th, 2023. Due to schedule conflicts in January, her retirement will be recognized at the November Commission Meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Bishop expressed his respect for Commissioner Robinson's service to the Board. Commissioner Bennett wished Commissioner Robinson good luck in his future endeavors. He also spoke on the pride he has in being a part of the WMFR due to all of the efforts taken during and in the wake of Hurricane Ian. Commissioner Robinson had some final words and handouts for the Board, Staff, and Audience concerning dangerous occupations and work comp rates. The material regarding dangerous professions was out of a book called Plunder by Steven Greenhut and the work comp rates came from the City of Holmes Beach, WMFR, and his personal contacts. He used these handouts to explain his opinions on Board Honorarium; relative retirements for police, fire personnel, and teachers; and the safety/dangerous rankings of different occupations. Commissioner Bishop stated that Commissioner Robinson should express that this is his own opinion and not the of the Board as a whole. Commissioner Robinson said he believes these are facts not his opinion.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary

