

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

*Minutes of November 17, 2020  
Administration Building and via Zoom*

Chairman Jennis closed nominations; unanimous ballot was cast. Commissioner Bishop nominated Commissioner Bennett for Secretary-Treasurer; Commissioner Harris closed nominations; unanimous ballot was cast.

- B. *2021 Meeting Dates:* Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve the 2021 Meeting Dates; seconded by Commissioner Bennett; motion passed unanimously.
- C. *December Meeting:* Commissioner Bishop motioned to cancel the December 15, 2021 meeting date; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously.
- D. *Appointment of Membership Fire Prevention Code of Appeals:* FM Kwiatkowski reviewed the list of members that would serve another 3 years. These are the same members that previously served. Commissioner Robinson asked who comes up with the list. FM Kwiatkowski stated that the Manatee County Fire Chief's Association does. Chief Rigney stated that the Manatee County Fire Chief's Association had a public meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the same 7 members ran unopposed and was adopted, all District's must now ratify the list. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Appointment of Membership for the Fire Prevention Code of Appeals; seconded by Commissioner Bishop; motion passed unanimously.
- E. *MOU WMFR & IAFF 2546 Health Insurance:* Chief Rigney stated that we received our renewal from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and there was an increase of 17.9%. Our benefits broker went out for bids and found a similar plan with United Healthcare at a 10.6% increase. We have an opener in our Collective Bargaining Agreement. The members voted the last 2 days on the MOU and is passed 18-5. This has been properly budgeted, and no budget amendment will be required. Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve the MOU between West Manatee Fire & Rescue District and IAFF 2546; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Rigney congratulated both Commissioner Jennis and Commissioner Bennett. BC Johnson stated we had over 40 emergency calls with Hurricane Eta. We moved our high-water vehicle to the island and manned with 2 of our personnel. This was a deadly storm and unfortunately one of the fatalities was in our district. Commissioner Robinson inquired about the details of the call and Chief Johnson reviewed those.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Commissioner Harris welcomed Commissioner Bennett.

Commissioner Robinson asked Chairman Jennis how many hours the Commissioners have been in the meeting room this past year. Chairman Jennis stated he did not know. Commissioner Robinson stated maybe 22 hours a year and asked how much we are going to spend on the room. Chairman Jennis stated he was not going to debate during Commissioner comments. He stated we have had discussions about the building for years and have had several votes on it. Commissioner Robinson stated the Commissioners spend at the most 22 hours a year in the room and we are going to spend \$400K on a room for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bennett wanted to thank everyone who voted for him and that he is excited about helping with the District.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Jennis adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



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REGULAR MEETING**

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

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Administrative Manager Kichar administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Jennis and Commissioner Bennett.

**PUBLIC HEARING for 2nd 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. Vice-Chair Jennis opened for public comment. There was no public comment. Vice-Chair Jennis closed the hearing. Commissioner Robinson motioned to adopt Ordinance 2020-06 Fire Prevention Code; seconded by Commissioner Harris; motion passed unanimously.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Commissioner Randy Cooper wanted to congratulate Commissioner Jennis on his re-election and to Robby Bennett being elected.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Commissioner Bishop motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Harris; Commissioner Robinson stated he would like to have the minutes pulled as they did not reflect his position or comment when he asked if anyone could justify the \$2M expenditure. Vice-Chair Jennis pulled the minutes from the consent agenda. Commissioner Bishop and Harris agreed to pull the minutes. Approval of consent agenda with exception to minutes passed unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** Commissioner Robinson stated the minutes were not detailed enough for him. Vice-Chair Jennis stated the minutes are not intended to be verbatim but are a summary. Commissioner Harris stated he did not have a problem of how the minutes were presented and are a fair representation of what happened at the last meeting. Commissioner Bishop stated that he concurs with Commissioner Jennis that the precedence is that the minutes are not verbatim but are a summary, but if a Commissioner is that concerned that if something is not being presented it is something we should try to work out. Commissioner Robinson stated he wasn't sure who he specifically asked but knows it was the Chief and asked if it was going to save any lives and he answered no, and it is not in the minutes. He stated he asked him if it was going to save any property and he answered no. Commissioner Jennis stated that was not his recollection of the Chief's reply. Chief Rigney stated he believes his response was that he was not sure as he truly doesn't know how many lives or property it will save. Commissioner Bishop stated he does recall the conversation and part of it was directed at employees and he thought it was clarified during commissioner comments that we were not to bring employees into that. Commissioner Harris motioned to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bishop. Discussion followed. Motion passed 3-1 with Commissioner Bennett abstaining.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. *Administration Building:* Chief Rigney stated that the permits have been approved and the footers were started today. Still on target for an April-May timeline. There was a mini groundbreaking ceremony today and a press release will be sent out. Chief Rigney requested a board liaison. Vice-Chair Jennis stated he would like to be the liaison.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. *Board Elections:* Commissioner Harris nominated Commissioner Jennis for Chair. Commissioner Harris closed nominations; unanimous ballot was cast. Commissioner Bishop nominated Commissioner Harris for Vice-Chair;