

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

*Minutes of January 21, 2025
Administration Building*

Special Presentations:

- A. The Sertoma Club of Bradenton presented a check for a \$4,000 donation. This donation is to go towards safety efforts for the hearing and vision impaired such as special alerting systems like bed shakers.

- B. 2024 Awards: Officer of the Year - Andrew Lauricella, Firefighter of the Year - Maxwell Pollock, Rookie of the Year - Tyler Snyder, Soteria - Derek Bill, Meritorious - Crystal Bercot & Christopher O'Kelly. Time of Service Awards: 1 Year - Page Larson, Nicolas Riffe, Zackary Misiura, Kyle Elliott, Matthew French, Gavin Johnston, Sarah Joseph, Dane Miller, Tyler Snyder, Brian Pease; 5 Years - Maxwell Pollock, Lisa Kiernan, Aaron Reese, William Thomas; 10 Years - Ashton Jasinski; 15 Years - Chad Brunner; 20 Years - Keith Miller, William Kimbrell, Jeffrey Taylor; 25 Years - Ryan Moore; 30 Years - James Leigh.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. with the following members present: Robert Bennett, Larry Jennis, David Bishop, Derrick Warner, and Billy Burke. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Chief Rigney requested that "Vehicle Replacement" be added to New Business item B.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright explained that a letter was received from St. Pete Fire Rescue thanking the District for the support given following Hurricanes Helene and Milton. WMFR provided them with an engine strike team following Hurricane Helene and with Chief Rigney as a liaison after Hurricane Milton. AA Wright then explained the handmade card sent thanking first responders for the help following the hurricanes.

CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Committee Appointments: Chairman Burke confirmed the current committees. Manatee County Fire Commissioner's Association – Commissioner Bennett, alternate Commissioner Jennis; Barrier Island Elected Officials – Chairman Burke; Awards/Appreciation – Commissioner Bishop; Safety Committee – Commissioner Bennett; Strategic Plan Committee – Commissioner Bishop; Engine Apparatus Committee – Commissioner Jennis; Banking & Finance Committee – Commissioner Burke; Total Patient Care – Commissioner Warner; TPLEs – Commissioner Warner; Council of Government – Commissioner Warner; Resiliency Committee – Commissioner Warner.

- B. Vehicle Replacement: Deputy Chief (DC) Johnson explained that Training Chief Tuttle's vehicle is currently in the shop with engine issues where repairs will cost anywhere from \$8,500, just to diagnose, and up to \$16,000 to repair. DC Johnson explained that the vehicle has a cam shaft issue that is consistent in Chevy Police Pursuit Tahoe's. DC Johnson stated this vehicle was slated for replacement in 2028 anyway and that staff is interested in replacing it with a more civilian style vehicle versus police packages that were previously purchased in hopes to keep maintenance bills low. Commissioner Burke asked if we would be able to get anything from the sale of C103 to which DC Johnson stated we would sell it on Gov Deals. Commissioner Bishop questioned the milage and maintenance history. DC Johnson said it has about 55,000 miles and is regularly maintained by Begley Auto Repair. Chief Rigney stated that staff recommends the purchase of a new vehicle with necessary emergency upgrades not to exceed \$85,000. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the purchase of a new staff vehicle not to exceed \$85,000;

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Seconded by Commissioner Jennis. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Jennis stated he would like to explore repairs to the current vehicle and spoke on his expertise with vehicle engines. The Board agreed other options should be exhausted before spending \$85,000 on a new vehicle. Commissioner Bennett amended his motion to appoint Commissioner Jennis as the decision maker for the repair or replacement of C103 not to exceed \$85,000 and to surplus C103 if he chooses replacement; Seconded by Commissioner Warner; motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski explained to the Board that this year, we are celebrating West Manatee Fire & Rescue District's 25 Years of Excellence. FM Kwiatkowski gave a timeline of events that will occur this year and culminate this milestone, to include a the 25th Anniversary Kickoff at the Open House on February 8th, Heritage Coin unveiling at the March Commission meeting, a Brian Reed Legacy Celebration on April 12th, 25th Anniversary Coin unveiling at the May Commission meeting, unveiling of the WMFR Heritage Wall and Chief's Wall at the July or August Commission meeting, and the Appreciation Dinner on December 6th.

OTHER REPORTS: Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright stated Financial Disclosures will again be sent via email from the Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System and still due by July 1st. AA Wright informed the Board that the annual requirement to complete the 4-hour ethics class is due by the end of the year. This can be done online or at the FASD Annual Conference.


COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: Commissioner Jennis thanked FM Kwiatkowski for coordinating the 25th Anniversary festivities and including memorializing Brian Reed as a part of it.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 18, at 6:00 p.m. at Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Burke adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary

