

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

*Minutes of July 16, 2024  
Administration Building*

Special Presentations: David Miller promotion to 2nd Class Firefighter/Paramedic. Aaron Reese promotion to 1st Class Firefighter/Paramedic.

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. with the following members present: Billy Burke, Larry Jennis, David Bishop, and Derrick Warner. Chief Rigney explained that Commissioner Bennett is present via Zoom due to illness and can speak but not vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve the excused absences of Commissioners' Bennett and Burke from the June 18, 2024, Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** Chief Rigney stated that New Business B was revised due to a scrivener's error.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Administrative Assistant (AA) Wright stated that we received an email from Manatee County 311 giving kudos to the crew. AA Wright also read a thank you letter from the Palma Sola Park Association for the Districts presence at their 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

**CARRIED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Resolution 2024-05 User Service Fee Schedule Collected by District – Fire Marshal (FM) Kwiatkowski stated that the Manatee County Fire Chief's Association (MCFCA) hired a third-party company to review the current fee schedules and better align them with other fee schedules along the sun coast. FM Kwiatkowski stated primary changes include overall fee increases. FM Kwiatkowski stated the MCFCA believes that these updates are fair and reasonable. FM Kwiatkowski then explained the fees that fall into what the District collects for include active fire systems. Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve the updated Uniform Service Fee Schedule collected by the District. Seconded by Commissioner Burke. Motioned passed unanimously.
  
- B. Resolution 2024-06 User Service Fee Schedule Collected by County – FM Kwiatkowski pointed out the scrivener's error on page 2 stating it should say "Demolition/Tent/Temporary Use permit submission" excluding "Building." FM Kwiatkowski noted some changes, including plan review costs for the first 5,000 square feet going from \$65 to \$250. FM Kwiatkowski stated these fees are collected by Manatee County and forwarded to the District. Commissioner Jennis motioned to approve the updated Uniform Service Fee Schedule collected by the County. Seconded by Commissioner Burke. Motioned passed unanimously.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** FM Kwiatkowski stated that the Bureau is starting a new initiative to educate the public about lithium-ion battery safety on August 1st. Chief Rigney asked if Lt. Stump could present to the Board next month regarding the new equipment coming in from the Florida Forestry Service to which the Board said yes. Chairman Warner asked what items contain lithium-ion batteries. FM Kwiatkowski stated almost everything from your cellphones to tools, vehicles, etc. Commissioner Jennis asked FM Kwiatkowski what the hazards are that come with lithium-ion batteries and warning signs to look for. FM Kwiatkowski stated you should purchase batteries tested and approved by recognized laboratories, not imported batteries from overseas. FM Kwiatkowski said it is difficult to tell if the batteries are damaged then offered a few best practices.

**OTHER REPORTS:** None


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**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** Commissioner Bishop confirmed Commissioner Bennett was still on Zoom. Commissioner Bishop expressed to the Board that he reached out to Staff to provide the amount of commissioner absences in the past two years. He explained that in the last two years, there were five meetings where a single commissioner was absent and only one where two were absent. Commissioner Bishop then explained how he felt the last commission meeting went stating that the journey is just as important as the destination. Commissioner Bishop stated that out of respect for the absent Commissioners and with no immediate time threat, a continuance should have been issued as he requested for this monumental contract approval. Commissioner Bishop also stated that there is a lot of distrust out there and he doesn't want that negative light on this Board due to this instance where something was passed with a simple quorum present. Commissioner Bishop noted and commended some of the great choices the Board has made and praised Staff. Commissioner Burke and Bennett also commended Staff. Commissioner Bennett noted that he supports the Collective Bargaining Agreement and understands what Commissioner Bishop stated and that the Board can always do better.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

  
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Chairman

  
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Secretary

