Regular Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Cedar Hammock Fire Control District

September 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Litschauer at 6:00 p.m. The following Commissioners were present: Steve Litschauer, Bill Espy, Marnie Matarese, John Stevens and Beth Byron-Reasoner.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Pavkovich led the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

QUORUM

Chairman Litschauer confirmed a physically present quorum for the meeting. The meeting was properly advertised.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Litschauer asked if there was any discussion of the Minutes or the Treasurer's report. There was no discussion.

ACTION: Commissioner Byron-Reasoner moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5–0).

SPECIAL BUSINESS

There was no special business.

RECESS REGULAR MEETING-

Chairman Litschauer recessed the regular meeting at 6:01pm. At 6:02pm the Public Hearing was opened.

PUBLIC HEARING / - THE ADOPTION OF THE FINAL LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 – RESOLUTION 2026-09

Chairman Litschauer called the Public Hearing to order and requested verification of the Public Notice of the Public Hearing. Chief Falcone confirmed the meeting was properly advertised.

Chief Falcone presented Resolution 2026-09, a resolution of the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District of Manatee County, Florida, adopting the final levy of ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2026-2027, providing for an effective date.

The Cedar Hammock Fire Control District is a special purpose fire district and shall levy and collect ad valorem taxes in accordance with applicable general law. The gross taxable value for operating purposes certified by the Manatee County Tax Collector is $5,623,003,591.

The additional ad valorem revenue is necessary to fund the District's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget and the costs associated with providing fire suppression, emergency medical response, fire prevention, training, personnel, equipment, facilities, and other District operations and

services.

Therefore, be it resolved the above recitals are true and correct; the fiscal year 2026-2027 final operating millage rate for the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District is 1.3000 mills, which is more than the rolled-back rate of 1.2826 mills by 1.36%.
This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Chairman Litschauer opened the Public Hearing for comments for the Adoption of the Final Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 – Resolution 2026-09. There were no public comments.

Chairman Litschauer closed the public hearing for comments.

ACTION: Commissioner Stevens moved to adopt Resolution 2026-09 as presented. Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Litschauer adjourned the public hearing for the adoption of the final levy of ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2026-2027- Resolution 2026-09 at 6:08pm

PUBLIC HEARING / - THE ADOPTION OF THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027– RESOLUTION 2026-10

Chairman Litschauer called the Public Hearing to order at 6:08 pm and requested verification of the Public Notice of the Public Hearing. Chief Falcone confirmed the meeting was properly advertised.

Chief Falcone presented Resolution 2026-10, a resolution of the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District of Manatee County, Florida, adopting the final budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027, providing for an effective date.

The Cedar Hammock Fire Control District is a special purpose fire district, and the Board of Fire Commissioners have set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the final budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of $23,327,444. The Board of Fire Commissioners of the District has committed funds in the amount of $9,541,108 to the following: Accrued Leave/Sick/Vacation/Salaries; major vehicle repairs; station renovations; vehicular replacement; fire apparatus purchase; and rescue equipment.

Therefore, be it resolved, the above recitals are true and correct, the fiscal year 2026-2027 final budget Exhibit 1, is hereby adopted; and this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Chairman Litschauer opened the Public Hearing for comments for the Adoption of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 – Resolution 2026-10. There were no public comments.

Chairman Litschauer closed the public hearing for comments.

ACTION: Commissioner Byron-Reasoner moved to adopt Resolution 2026-10 as presented. Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Litschauer adjourned the public hearing for the adoption of the final budget for fiscal year 2026-2027– Resolution 2026-10 at 6:12pm.

PUBLIC HEARING / SECOND READING OF THE CEDAR HAMMOCK FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT FIRE PREVENTION CODE- ORDINANCE 2026-05

Chairman Litschauer called the Public Hearing to order at 6:12pm and requested verification of the Public Notice of the Public Hearing. Chief Falcone confirmed the meeting was properly advertised.

Chief Falcone presented Ordinance 2026-05, an ordinance of the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District of Manatee County, Florida, adopting the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District Fire Prevention Code, providing for an effective date.

The District may "adopt and enforce fire safety standards and codes and enforce the rules of the State Fire Marshal consistent with the exercise of the duties authorized by chapter 553 or chapter 633, with respect to fire suppression, prevention, and fire safety code enforcement."

Chapter 633 Florida Statutes requires the Board of Fire Commissioners of the District to adopt such rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out the intent and purposes of said act.

It has been determined by the Board of Fire Commissioners that Uniform Rules and Regulations located within the District are necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the District.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the District recognizes the Florida Fire Prevention Code as adopted by the State of Florida, and that the National Fire Codes of the National Fire Protection Association Standards are reasonable rules and regulations and would benefit the residents and businesses located within the District.

The District has prepared a Fire Prevention Code entitled "Cedar Hammock Fire Control District Fire Prevention Code," attached as Exhibit 1.

Therefore, be it ordained, the above recitals are true and correct; the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District Fire Prevention Code is attached as Exhibit 1, is hereby adopted as rules and regulations for the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District, shall take effect January 1, 2027, and all prior ordinances in conflict with Ordinance 2026-05 are hereby repealed.

Chairman Litschauer opened the Public Hearing for the second reading to adopt the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District Fire Prevention Code, Ordinance 2026-05. There were no public comments.

Chairman Litschauer closed the public hearing for comments.

ACTION: Commissioner Byron-Reasoner moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-05 as presented. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Litschauer adjourned the public hearing for the adoption the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District Fire Prevention Code, Ordinance 2026-05 at 6:18pm

RESUME REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Litschauer reconvened the regular meeting at 6:18pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

OLD BUSINESS

2026-2027 Board of Fire Commissioner's Meeting Schedule

Chief Falcone presented an updated schedule of the Cedar Hammock Board of Fire Commissioners regular commission meetings for fiscal year 2026-2027. Discussion began to ensure that there are no scheduling conflicts with the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners and School Board meetings. The Commissioners and Chief discuss the requirements of the board attendance to form a quorum at the meetings.

ACTION: Commissioner Stevens moved to accept the schedule for the 2026-2027 Board of Fire Commissioners meetings as presented. Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Once the dates for upcoming meetings were set, Chief Falcone informed the board that the District would like to move the October 15, 2026, meeting to Station 3 to facilitate a memorial presentation for retired Battalion Chief Phil Collier.

ACTION: Commissioner Byron-Reasoner moved to approve the change in location for the regular meeting scheduled for October 15, 2026, to Station 3. Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

New Apparatus Specification Trip

Deputy Chief French updated the board of the upcoming production of two new fire engines. He explained that as part of the process, several members from the engine specification committee would be traveling to the assembly facility in Appleton, Wisconsin. The committee members will be traveling October 13th through the 15th. He explained that once the engines get closer to completion that the committee members would travel back to the assembly facility to complete a final inspection prior to the apparatus being delivered.

NEW BUSINESS

Collective Bargaining Agreement (C.B.A.) 2026-2029

Chief Falcone presented the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Cedar Hammock Fire Control District and the Suncoast Professional Firefighters and Paramedics, IAFF Local 2546 to take effect October 1, 2026. He expressed his appreciation for the collaborative efforts with Local 2546 through the negotiations. He also highlighted that the agreement along with the previously approved budget will support a very positive employee benefits package as well as needed capital improvements for the District.

ACTION: Commissioner Matarese moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented. Commissioner Byron-Reasoner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

DVP Ethan Viera spoke on behalf of the members and expressed his appreciation for a good working relationship between the District and the members through the negotiations process.

DVP Viera and Chairman Litschauer then signed the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Falcone presented the August report to update the Commissioners on the business of the District.

Chief Falcone brought Pastor Stan up to be recognized and make the announcement that Pastor Stan will be retiring as the Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue Chaplain in the next few months. There was discussion about a retirement ceremony with more information to come.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Steven mentioned that he attended a 9-11 ceremony at the State College of Florida, and he said it was a good event.

Commissioner Espy thanked the Chief and staff for the work that went into the budget and the process of keeping the Board updated along the way.

Commissioner Matarese thanked the crew for the work on the new contract. She also appreciated the Chief attending the recent Whitfield Ballentine Manor Homeowners Association meeting.

Commissioner Litschauer discussed Pastor Stan's long history with emergency services. He also said the District did a great job with all the recent important topics such as the budget and the C.B.A.

NEXT MEETING DATE

October 15, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Commissioner Matarese moved to adjourn the meeting Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Approved

Chairman Steve Litschauer