

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on October 30, 2019, at Fire Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. by Chairman Emilio Buttice. All Commissioners and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present. Guests included Debbie Mobley, Brian Jones, Keith Farrrens, Dean Atkinson and John Knowles.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Buttice.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 9, 2019 were approved as mailed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Financial Report for September was approved as presented.

The Secretary's Budget Report for September was presented, reviewed and approved.

The 2020 Budget was handed out for review with a few changes.

The 2020 Budget public hearing was scheduled for November 13, 2019 at 3:45 PM.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Engine 3457 has been deployed with the Strike Team to California. We have members Luis Mendoza, Jestin Goodson and Derek Ruffcorn on that assignment. They have been assigned to the Kincaid Fire and will be working 24 hour shifts.

The District will be receiving \$58,919.37 from the 2018 GEMT settlement.

State Audit is underway for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Station 41 has had problems with the generator for the past couple of years and is in need for a newer bigger model with more circuits to accommodate our needs. Chief Eastman has received a quote from Walla Walla Electric in the amount of \$26,056.00 plus tax. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hector motioned to accept the bid and move forward with ordering it. Commissioner Buttice seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2019 SAM program is now complete. All of Walla Walla County elementary schools excluding the Burbank area were taught this program by Walla Walla City Fire, College Place and District #4. Blake Nass was the lead on teaching this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was continued discussion on the collaborative funding for upgrades and improvements for the training facility at the drill tower. An in-depth discussion took place on multiple agency training together with no issues at hand, so why can we all train together as well as multiple agency responding to structure fires and not for EMS. The Board would like to see boundary drops for EMS sending the closest unit in conjunction to us funding for the upgrades. Chief Eastman has had discussions with the other Chiefs on the boundary issue and will work towards a resolution as soon as possible. As for the training facility upgrades, legal advice is needed to draft agreements that will protect all parties interest in this facility. With that said; Commissioner Hector made a motion to front up to \$900,000.00 for funding these improvements with future negotiations on the time frame for the other entities to pay back

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their portion with interest. Commissioner Buttice seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The goal for completion is the end of 2020.

Chief Eastman handed out a State Bid packet for a new utility vehicle that would replace the dump truck. Discussion took place on whether the District is in need of this vehicle with the conclusion in support of the purchase. Commissioner Myrick motioned to move forward with the purchase of a new utility vehicle as well as a snow plow, cargo bed and miscellaneous tools for it up to a maximum of \$50,000.00. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid opening for surplus utility vehicle took place with two closed bids received. Chief Eastman opened the bids as follows; Richard Russell, \$1,695.00, Josh Pettyjohn, \$1,550.00. The Board approved the sale of the 1975 GMC one ton pick-up to the highest bid to Richard Russell.

There has been a change in ownership to an existing Oregon Fire Protection Agreement at 61458 Mill Creek Road to Britt Adkins effective November 1, 2019. The annual amount for this contract is \$303.94.

Chief Eastman advised the board we need to decide on the 2020 fee for the ARFF contract. Last year we did not raise the monthly amount. Staff raises this year are 3.2%. After a brief discussion Commissioner Myrick motioned to raise the ARFF contract according to the increase of 3.2%. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Keith Farrens thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the WFCA convention last week.

John Knowles thanked the Board for the support of the training facility upgrades and is confident this will open doors to expand in other areas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on November 13, 2019 at 4:00 P.M. at station #41.

Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: _____, Chairman