

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on November 27, 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 Brian Jones.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Buttice.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the special meeting on October 24, 2019 were approved as written.

The minutes of the public hearing on November 13, 2019 were approved as mailed.

The minutes of the regular meeting on November 13, 2019 were approved as mailed.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

The Secretary's Budget Report for October was presented, reviewed and approved. Commissioner Hector asked a few questions regarding the report. Chief Eastman answered his questions.

#### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Eastman gave the board an update on the state audit which covered 2016, 2017 and 2018. The lead auditor conducted an entrance meeting on October 30, 2019 and an exit conference on November 22, 2019. Areas for evaluations were; Accounts receivable – ambulance billings and adjustments, Payroll – gross wages, Procurement – public works and purchases, and Accounts Payable – general disbursements, petty cash and electronic fund transfers. The estimated cost of this audit will be \$9,000.00 plus mileage. The final report has been completed with no findings, management letters, or exit recommendations. Chief Eastman reported that this clean audit is a testament to the work and effort Debbie Mobley does for the fire district.

The results of our recent WSRB re-evaluation lowered our Protection Rating from a 6/7 to a 5/6 (1-10 rating with 1 being the best). Chief Eastman reported that to best of his knowledge, this is the first time Fire District 4 has been rated a 5. The rating improvement is the result of the positive improvements the fire district, water supplies, dispatch, and improvements to the rating criteria. The commissioners thanked all involved for these accomplishments.

Hose testing this year was completed by staff since we were unable to contact Pacific Northwest Hydro again this year. Staff did an outstanding job completing the hose testing in a very short time period.

Annual apparatus inspection/maintenance is underway and progressing ahead of schedule.

Chief Eastman reported that he along with Chief Yancey and Chief Winter are completing a technical review of the draft RFA Study. ESCI asked for the review to be completed by December 16, 2019.

Chief Eastman attended Benton County Fire District 4 Commissioner AJ Hill's retirement recognition on behalf of the fire district and commissioners. It was a nice event and AJ appreciated the support from our agency.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chief Eastman met with College Place City Manager Mike Rizzitiello and discussed the collaborative training grounds. He was receptive to the proposed 1/3 funding from each agency (Walla Walla,

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College Place, and Fire District 4) and suggested a 5 year repayment plan back to the fire district. He would like to schedule a presentation to the College Place City Council on January 7, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Chief Eastman will work with the training officers to complete this presentation.

Chief Eastman inquired to the Board the status of the 2020 wage increases for the non-represented career staff. After a brief discussion, the board directed Chief Eastman to prepare the 2020 wages with the non-represented wage increase of 3.2%, equal to the wage and benefit increase of the represented employees.

Commissioner Hector asked about the succession planning and updating the drug policy. Chief Eastman thanked Commissioner Hector for the emailed succession planning information. In addition, he is establishing a rough estimate of projected retirements and will discuss with the officers. No action has been taken yet on updating the drug policy regarding marijuana.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Eastman reported that a representative from Public Consulting Group, whom we contract with to complete our GEMT cost reports, was in town last week and presented our 2019 Cost Report and the 2020 Provider Participation Agreement. The documents were reviewed and approved.

Commissioner Hector reported on his attendance at the Tri-County Fire Commissioner meeting held November 23, 2019. Topics included; patient refusing Lifeflight Helicopter due to cost, West Benton RFA levy lid lift approval from \$0.87 to \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation, and Franklin FD3 farm medic program.

**AUDIENCE INPUT**

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 December 11, 2019 at 4:00 P.M. at station #41.

Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman