

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on February 13, 2019 at Fire Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Commissioner Emilio Buttice. All Commissioners were present and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman was on conference call. Guests included Debbie Mobley, Brian Jones, John Davin, Dean Atkinson, Keith Farrens and Bill Box.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Buttice.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 30, 2019 were approved as mailed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The January Commissioner Activity Reports were reviewed and approved by each Commissioner.

The Tri-County Fire Commissioner meeting has been rescheduled for February 23rd at Station 210 in Benton City. Since this is the same date as the Snure Seminar in Spokane we will not have anyone attending.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Eastman reviewed EMS transports. District #4 had a twenty-one transports in January in which three were ALS.

Engine 3454 has a cracked pump motor and needs to be replaced. Mechanic Dean Atkinson spoke on the repairs needed and quotes from three different vendors. General Fire; \$5,565.00, Cascade Fire; \$7,196.00 and Montana Metal Works; \$4,877. It was agreed to order and move forward with ordering from Montana Metal Works for a new pump motor and repairs.

Chief Eastman reminded the Board of the annual awards banquet this Saturday, February 16th. Social Hour will begin at 5:00 pm with dinner at 6:00pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

After discussions with the Board and Staff, Chief Eastman advised the Board we will not have a part time Paramedic responding from home in covering shifts that do not have a staff Paramedic. That part time employee will be at Station 41 for that shift they are covering.

Discussions on staffing took place at this month's staff meeting. A lot of ideas were brought forth for long term solutions including; options for ALS/Paramedic coverage, replacement hiring for employees who will be retiring and the possibility of volunteers becoming certified for ARFF coverage. A tentative date of April 1, 2019 for Brandon coming off of light duty was also discussed.

Discussions on a possible RFA (Regional Fire Authority) continue. Commissioner Hector attended Station 43 meeting on February 11th and has now attended all station meetings except for Station 45 for input from District #4's volunteers. All stations have expressed similar concerns. A lot of questions that have no answers at this time. Captain John Davin spoke on behalf of Station 44 with the same questions and concerns and would like to have answers before moving forward to the next step. The main feeling from volunteers is to protect the culture of Fire District #4, respect from all entities, volunteer participation and EMS Levy passing to name a few. Chief Eastman takes responsibility for lack of communication to our members and will be putting out a weekly email on Mondays that will outline what is going on in the department for the week.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 02001 through 02057 were presented for payment. Commissioner Hector motioned to approve the expense vouchers. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The total for these were \$235,148.46.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Discussions continue with questions from Lieutenant Bill Box asking what College Place Fire Department's opinions are about the RFA discussions. Dean's concerns on the City taxing and if an EMS Levy would pass after all the additional taxing to our citizens for ambulance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____