

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on March 13, 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 Keith Farrens, Dean Atkinson, 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 February 27, 2019 were approved as mailed.

The minutes of the special meeting of February 27, 2019 were approved as written and distributed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

The next SE WFCA is scheduled for March 22nd; 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia County Fairgrounds Youth Building. All commissioners and Chief Eastman will be attending.

The March 8, 2019 WFCA Legislative report was handed out and reviewed.

The Annual Personal Financial Affairs forms are due by April 15, 2019. All Commissioners still need to complete this renewal.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Eastman reviewed EMS transports for February with a hand out and discussion. District #4 transported twenty-three (23) patients for the month.

Chiefs Eastman, Yancey, and Winters attended a meeting with Providence St. Mary's Medical Center leadership staff regarding out of town transfers. PSMC described the problem they have with the inability to find ground transport for patients requiring transport to other hospitals. At times air transport is unavailable and very costly for the patient. They would like to work together with all agencies to identify a solution to increase ground transport availability in our community by November of this year. All agencies agreed to meet monthly on this issue.

Our billing agency reported that one of the patients we transported in September 2018 is a North Dakota Medicaid patient. Our option for collecting payment for transport is limited to enrolling as a provider in North Dakota. This is a time consuming process and the payment will likely be less than \$150. After a discussion, Commissioner Hector motioned to write-off the fee schedule for Incident #190-2018-00000651. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The new building is progressing with the shell and walls up at this time. The electrical contractor is currently installing the conduit. The roof is scheduled to be installed next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Eastman updated the Board on the status of Firefighter/Paramedic Cadwell. It is unknown whether he will be able to return to full duty in April or first part of May. For March and April, nearly all of the vacant paramedic shifts are covered by utilizing part-time medics, overtime, or Chief Eastman. The reliability of this model is limited as we get closer toward summer should Brandon Cadwell not be able to return to full duty in May.

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Chief Eastman presented four options for the Board to consider: Status Quo with per-diem medics; hire a temporary full-time medic (3-6 months); have 2 part-time medics who work approximately 30 hours per week; hire a full-time medic. Chief Eastman recommended the full-time option for ease of scheduling and the additional coverage provided at Station 41. The Board discussed these options and one other. It was to continue to utilize WWFD as per the current Walla Walla County EMS Levy agreement when we don't have a paramedic on shift. After a lengthy discussion, the board tabled this issue until the next meeting.

Chief Eastman reported that a meeting is scheduled for March 14th with representatives from WWFD, CPFD, and WWCFD4 to discuss what's important to each agencies members.

Commissioner Hector reported that he attended the Station Meeting at 45 Monday. The members believed in getting the closest unit to their area and have had good working relations with WWFD.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 03001 through 03059 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 \$173,460.78.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Dean Atkinson thanked Commissioner Hector for the department history he presented at the Awards Banquet and also shared with the board a few thoughts of how recent incidents worked well with the three local Fire/EMS agencies.

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

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____