

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on January 27, 2021 via Zoom online.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Larry Hector. All Commissioners and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present via Zoom. Guests included Brian Jones, John Golden, Bill Box, Sebastian Schieff & Megan Waite.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Farrens. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was not completed due to the meeting being online.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2021 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried. The minutes of the special meeting of January 20, 2021 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Farrens. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

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

WFCA legislative report for January 22, 2021 was reviewed.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Station 42 & 44 members had a meeting to discuss the joint response with College Place Fire Department ambulance in areas west of College Place. Station 42 & 44 members will meet CPFD & get familiar with CP ambulance later this week. The run cards will be updated at the end of next week.

Chief Eastman reports the apparatus committee have completed a draft apparatus replacement plan and will have a presentation at the next commissioner meeting.

Commissioner Hector reported Mayor Scribner reached out to him to discuss the cooperative services study. Mayor Scribner extended an apology for the procedures taken at the ESCI presentation to the elected officials at the July 20, 2020 meeting and invited the Commissioner to a meeting for discussion on the previous presentation and moving forward from here. It was suggested that the three involved entities could come up with a better plan than the one that was presented by ESCI. Some expressed concern that RFA discussions may add tension among members and strain the relationships among the agencies members. Commissioners discussed the positive collaboration occurring among the agencies currently (joint training program, drill tower project, CP responding) and the desire for those projects to succeed. After the discussion, including audience input, the commissioners would like to table formal RFA discussions at this time and work on collaborative efforts among the agencies as stated above. Commissioner Myrick stated he is always willing to look at opportunities to enhance service to the citizens. At this time the Commissioners are not going to scheduling a meeting with our members.

Updated ALS protocols were approved by the state and will be implemented in Walla Walla and Columbia Counties by end of February. Currently, members are studying and testing on new protocols and medications.

Firefighter/EMT testing scheduled for February 22nd and 23rd to establish an eligibility list. Once the testing is complete, we will know more whether Dean Atkinson will return from military duty on April 1st. If his military duty is extended, Chief Eastman stated he would wish to hire someone. Currently Kyle is hired to fulfill the vacancy of Dean in his absence and when he retires. Blake leaving left a position open.

Commissioner Meeting, January 27, 2021

Awards Banquet will not be held in February. Members thought the Awards Banquet could be held this summer as an outdoor event, depending on the restrictions at the time. Commissioner Farrens thought that was the responsible thing to do!

Walla Walla County Health Department in conjunction with Providence St. Mary's Medical Center and other healthcare providers in the area have organized community vaccination clinics at the WW Fairgrounds. Their first one was held Saturday, January 23rd and was very successful in vaccinating approximately 1000 people. District 4 was asked to have a first aid booth available at this vaccine clinic. The plan is to have all local EMS providers assist with the clinics over the next several months. EMS Coordinator Heather Lee is responsible for the scheduling of EMS providers. We will continue to provide coverage for future clinics as requested. Commissioner Myrick suggested offering a gurney for use as needed. Commissioner Myrick suggests we do what we can to provide as much support as we can to get the community vaccinated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Eastman recommended the annual policies review schedule be to review one chapter a month. With the chapter coordinating with the month. We have 10 chapters. At the second meeting of the month, we will review one chapter.

Commissioners would like to rotate Larry, Keith, Vern in on Officers Meeting in that order. The Officer meetings occur the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Commissioner Hector inquired about the vendor list for small works roster. The advertisement has been placed in the Union-Bulletin and vendors have been submitting requests to be added.

Commissioner Hector inquired to the status of the AFG Grant. Chief Winter is preparing the grant with Chief Eastman providing information as needed. The application period closes on February 12, 2021.

Commissioner Hector inquired on the status of Target solutions; Chief Eastman reports it is being integrated into our training process.

Bids for training facility are closed and three bids were received. Chief Eastman, Lt. Box, John Boose with CPF and Captain Knowles from WWFD have a meeting to open and review bids tomorrow.

Commissioner Hector inquired the status of the policy for sick leave and vacation cash-out to be placed into a VEBA account on retirement. Chief Eastman reported he has the policy language changes completed and is waiting for a reply from union representatives whether they wish to be included in this change.

Information was submitted to the City of WW to adjust the boundary line at 604 Abbott. Chief Eastman reports he has not received anything from the City of WW. Once the boundary line adjustment is complete the next step is to connect the house to either Walla Walla sewer or water. Commissioner Myrick suggested completing a home inspection to identify any needed repairs prior to selling.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial hardship waiver for EMS transport (Incident # 2020-00000586) that occurred in September 2020 was presented. The applicant's monthly income is listed at \$814/month or \$9,768 annually, which does fall below the Federal Poverty Level for 2020 of \$12,760. Chief Eastman suggested we write off the balance of \$95.55 as charity. After a brief discussion Commissioner Myrick motioned to write off balance in full. Commissioner Farrens seconded motion was carried.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Commissioner Farrens noted that the new Fire Chief in Waitsburg is no longer with Waitsburg and Colter Mohny is the interim chief again.

Commissioner Meeting, January 27, 2021

Cole Massey has completed his two-week PIO contract in Chelan as a District #4 member. He has been invited to stay in Chelan under a personal contract.

Megan reported the department will be purchasing the 'Department access pass' for all members interested in attending Snure seminars.

Chief Eastman asked for the Commissioner input on uniform allowance for volunteers. Commissioners suggest making a \$50 available to volunteers. Commissioner Hector motioned to approve \$50 for each volunteer annually. Commissioner Farrens seconded motion was carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on February 10, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: _____, Chairman