

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on December 9, 2020 via Zoom online.

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by Chairman Myrick. Commissioners Hector and Farrens, Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present via Zoom. Guests included Megan Waite, Brian Jones and Bill Box.

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 November 25, 2020 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The November Commissioners Activity Reports were reviewed and approved by each Commissioner.

Chief Eastman reported the L & I rate increased for 2021. In 2020 the rate was 1.59/hour to 2.07/hour for 2021.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Eastman reviewed EMS transports for the month of November. Twenty-five transports were completed in November and a total of 280 for the year. Chief Eastman commented activity is normal.

Chief Eastman met with City of WW Fire Chief Yancy and College Place Fire Chief Winters via zoom regarding a joint training program. The fire chiefs all agree a joint training program would greatly benefit the departments and the community. The training officers with each department are excited to be training together and will be moving forward. The goal is to have the training program implemented by April 1.

Providence St. Mary's will be administering the COVID-19 vaccines to first responders. The vaccines will start to be administered near December 21st. Chief Eastman also reports Providence St. Mary's is doing rapid COVID testing for EMS providers.

Lt. interviews will be held December 10 announcements of promotions will be made the following week. Chief Eastman reports we are interviewing 5 people for 3 open positions.

Deputy Chief interviews will be held December 17,2020 with the commissioners and chief.

Apparatus committee has been established to replace R3441, the committee will meet next week to go over the desired specifications. Working on an accelerated time frame, the goal is to be ready to purchase by the end of January.

California deployment invoice will be completed soon, we are expecting \$35-\$40k in refunds. WWFD Captain Knowles reported they received payment within 3 weeks.

Chief Eastman reported WWFD received \$5,000 grant from FM Global for SAM videos.

The recruit academy was completed December 5. Lt. Box reported a positive experience for everyone, was one of the best academies he has been a part of! The recruits will be completing hazmat training and IFSAC testing in the spring. We hope to have a graduation and pinning in March or April.

Association of Washington Business donated \$2,000, instead of the planned \$1,000 to the Auxiliary. Due to the increase the auxiliary will be able to donate to 10 families this year instead of 5 this holiday season!

Volunteer Brian Richard officially retired November 30. He was very dedicated to the department and will be missed. We have ordered a plaque of appreciation and will present it at a later date.

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Chief Eastman will be on vacation December 23rd – January 7th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Hector inquired about the Training Tower status. Chief Eastman reports project is moving forward and WWFD is still working on obtaining permits.

Commissioner Hector inquired about the survey for 604 Abbott properties. Chief Eastman reported we have not received the report PBS. Once that is received, we can move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Eastman would like to sale 16 hours of unused vacation time back at regular time. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve buying back 16 hours at regular time. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

The power loader for the cot in A3421 was approved in the 2021 budget. Chief Eastman asked if we could authorize the order in 2020 for 2021 delivery. Commissioner Myrick motion to approve purchase. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion and was carried.

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 201201001 through 201201052 were presented for payment. Chief Eastman and Megan reviewed some of the big-ticket items. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the expense vouchers. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried. The total for these were \$140,987.32

Consider Collective Bargaining agreement with Local 4514, Lt. Box thank the Board and Chief Eastman for all the hard work in negotiations and for their understanding. Commissioner Hector moved to accept the three year agreement and Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

Chief Eastman reported proclamation 20-28.14 was issued regarding Open Public meetings. New guidelines are meetings must remain virtual but will allow in person attendance when necessary and appropriate. Meeting venue and participants must follow Covid-19 guidelines. After a brief discussion, the commissioner's preference would be to continue virtual meetings.

Due to the proposed increase in volunteer point value and stipends approved in the 2021 budget and changing the Assistant Chief title to Deputy Chief the department Policies and Procedures needed updated. Chief Eastman reviewed the changes and after some discussion Commissioner Hector motioned to approve the proposed changes at the next regular meeting by resolution, Commissioner Farrens seconded.

AUDIENCE INPUT

At 5:45 pm Chairman Myrick called for executive session as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment. The executive session will be for 20 minutes.

At 6:05 the regular meeting reconvened.

The chairman presented that Firefighter Mechanic Dean Atkinson absence due to military deployment is extended to March 31, 2021. Dean also stated he plans to retire in 2021. After a brief discussion, the board directed Chief Eastman to offer Kyle Crosswhite a full time Firefighter/EMT position effective January 1, 2021 with the expectation that he would assume the Firefighter/Mechanic vacancy later in 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on December 23, 2020 at 4:00 P.M.

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Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: _____, Chairman