

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on February 23, 2022 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Farrens. All Commissioners and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present at Station 41. Guests included Deputy Chief John Golden, Bill Box, Brian Jones, Jes Goodson, Megan Waite in person and Chief Knowles via zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Farrens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 9, 2022 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

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

WFCA Legislative Report for February 2022 was reviewed.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Eastman gave a staffing update. Conditional offers of employment have been made to Zach Hubbard one of our residents and Timothy Bowen from Chelan 3. Physicals are scheduled the second week of March. Zach & Timothy have both accepted and will start March 14th, 2022. We will be hiring 4 summer hires this year. Interviews will be held the beginning of March for 5-6 volunteer applicants, they will start with Wildland training in April. Some of our residents will be going home for the summer.

WESCOM radio upgrades will cause the primary channel to be down 2-3 days next week. The ACIP upgrades are approximately \$800,000 and will eliminate having one general hub at the jail, this should alleviate the frequent outages.

Chief Eastman reported R3441 responded to an MCI incident on Interstate 84 in Umatilla County on February 21st, 2022 with M3921. Each transported 3 patients to St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton.

Chief Eastman presented the 2021 Annual report. After a brief discussion regarding volunteer recruitment, especially at station 45, Chief Eastman stated Captain Woiblet is consulting with a colleague for recruitment guidance. The annual report will be available at the March 9th meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Hector attended the February 12th Tri-County Fire Commissioner Meeting held at Tri-Tech in Kennewick. An Inter local agreement to share reserve apparatus was completed between Grandview, Prosser & Sunnyside. Chief Lonnie Click reported that chiefs need to put air support requests in sooner rather than later for this upcoming fire season. If using ag pilots for fire suppression they are covered under the department's insurance. Kennewick is pulling their support of the Tri-Tech Program. The Tri-County Fire Commissioner meeting scheduled for November 12th will be at station 41. A program will need to be scheduled.

Commissioner Hector reported meeting with Chief Officers of District #4, City of Walla Walla, and City of College Place to discuss the training consortium, collaboration, and RFA discussions. All in attendance felt the joint training overall was going well, with some minor issues being worked through and well worth the effort to continue. All in attendance agreed that collaboration was important and that continuing the planning phase of a potential RFA or increased collaboration was worthwhile. The plan would outline staffing, fire prevention, training, service, and administration may look like. Chief Eastman reported the Commissioners had previously approved through a resolution the feasibility study and exploring a plan for an RFA. Commissioner Farrens would like Chief Eastman to provide the previous resolution at the March 9th meeting.

Commissioner Meeting, February 23, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE INPUT

None

At 4:54 P.M Commissioner Farrens called for an executive session as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the performance of a public employee. The executive session will be for 30 minutes.

At 5:45 P.M the regular meeting reconvened.

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 March 9th, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: _____, Chairman