

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on February 9, 2022 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Farrens. Commissioners Hector and Myrick and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present at station 41. Guests included Deputy Chief John Golden, WW Deputy Chief Knowles and Megan Waite in person at station 41 and Brian Jones via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Farrens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2022 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Chief Eastman reports the Tri-County Commissioners meeting changed venue; it will now be held at Tri-Tech.

WFCA Saturday Seminars on April 2nd will be the Brian Snure presentation at the Davenport in Spokane. Commissioner Farrens, Hector and Myrick are all interested and available to attend. Megan will complete registration and make hotel reservations.

The Washington Fire Commissioner conference in Chelan in June 4. Commissioner Farrens is not able to attend need to cancel his reservation.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The EMS response and transport report for the month of January was provided. Eighty-six responses for the month of January. Twenty-seven fire responses and fifty-nine EMS responses with thirty-three transports completed in January.

Walla Walla City Fire Deputy Chief Knowles reports progress is being made on the training tower. The foundation is almost complete. The structures are being shipped from Phoenix, once they arrive it will take about two weeks to set-up. The exterior stairs changed direction, instead of sticking out from the building they will be next to it. Deputy Chief Knowles has contacted the school district to express interest in purchasing a portable classroom in an effort to make the training grounds all inclusive. He is also looking into options for a restroom other than the public facilities in the park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Eastman gave a staffing update and hiring process. We had nine applicants complete testing on January 28th. Chief Eastman and Deputy Chief Golden will be conducting four interviews Thursday and Friday. Chief Eastman is hoping to extend offers to two candidates with an intended start day the week of March 7th. Volunteer paramedics David Siviter and Jordan Benjamin will help cover A-shifts paramedic vacancy, until Alex completes the paramedic school in June. The run cards are updated depending on paramedic availability.

Chief Eastman reported the department was hit pretty hard with the flu and covid over the last month. All members have returned to work.

Chief Eastman presented Resolution 2022-01 An interlocal purchasing agreement with HGAC. At the January 12, 2022 the agreement was approved. Commissioner Hector motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Farrens second the motion and was carried.

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Chief Eastman presented an Employment Contract for the new Deputy Chief of operations position and discussed the agreement with candidate. After a brief discussion, the position was offered to Deputy Chief John Golden effective July 1, 2022. Commissioner Hector motioned to accept contract with Deputy Chief Golden as Deputy Chief of Operations. Commissioner Farrrens seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 202202001 through 202202051 were presented for payment. Chief Eastman reviewed some of the big-ticket items. Commissioner Hector motioned to approve the expense vouchers. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried. The total for these were \$660,799.01.

Chief Eastman presented the 2022 EMS Levy Contract with Walla Walla County for \$443,603 for approval and signatures. Commissioner Hector motioned to approve 2022 EMS levy contract. Commissioner Myrick second the motion and was carried.

Due to the increase in illness and covid in the community, the awards banquet has been rescheduled to April 23rd.

Commissioner Hector inquired about having a meeting with City of Walla Walla Fire Chiefs and City of College Place Fire Chief to discuss the overall state of Fire/EMS services in the area. After a brief discussion it was suggested that Commissioner Hector schedule a meeting with the chief officers and report back at a future Commissioner Meeting.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Chief Golden thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity and looks forward to working with the Commissioners.

Deputy Chief Knowles reported the fit test equipment for the new SCBA's should be available soon. He would like to see everyone complete a fit test before SCBA's arrive.

Deputy Chief Knowles stated the training consortium overall is going well in his opinion. It still has some kinks to work out, but over-all he has a good feeling about it.

Brian Jones expressed he has concerns over implementing an RFA and felt it is premature to approach RFA discussions. The joint-training has been going great.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 P.M.

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on February 23, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____, Chairman