

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on March 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 Brian Jones and Megan Waite in person at station 41.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Farrens.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 23, 2022 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

Chief Eastman presented the WFCA Bill Status Report. Several Bills did not pass. Retirement benefits for LEOFF employees increased up to 5%. No major effects to our department.

Chief Eastman stated the deadline to file the Annual Personal Financial Affairs report is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

WFCA reservations have been secured at the Historic Davenport. Prices have significantly increased; with group discount each room will be \$357 for one night. Chief Eastman asked if the Commissioners would like to keep reservations at Historic Davenport or move for savings. Commissioner Myrick noted parking would likely be challenging if not a guest of the hotel. Commissioners would like to keep original reservation.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

The Fire and EMS response and transport reports for the month of February was provided. Ninety-one total responses for the month and sixty-two 65 EMS responses for the month of February.

Chief Eastman reported we interviewed 8 volunteer candidates. We will be checking references and moving forward with background checks. Several are interested in our residency program. If approved they will start with wildland training in April. We may need to evaluate our hiring frequency to enhance recruitment and help with staffing.

Don Maiuri memorial service is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, St. Patrick's Church. Our members will be out front and will lead the processional to the cemetery. Jerri would love to have the fire members back to St. Patrick's for lunch.

Dean Atkinson retirement dinner has been re-scheduled to March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm at station 41. Meatball dinner from Cugini's is planned.

Chief Eastman reports the most recent mask mandate will be lifted effective midnight March 11<sup>th</sup> for vaccinated members. Mask mandate is still undetermined for members with exemptions. There is no change in PPE for responses. Commissioners Myrick suggested checking with health department recommendations for members with exemptions. Commissioner Farrens inquired about Gov. Inslee's vaccine mandate; Chief Eastman reported the vaccine mandate has not changed at this time.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chief Eastman presented resolution 2018-06 that was requested at the last meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 220301001 through 220301058 were presented for payment. Chief Eastman 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 \$194,855.79.

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Commissioner Farrens made a motion to resend resolution 2018-06. "I move that we resend the resolution about the regional fire authority, as I believe the intent has already been met, yet continue to explore the possibility to improve service to the citizens of fire district 4 without creating a regional fire authority." Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion. Commissioner Farrens would like to continue collaboration discussions with WWFD and CPF D without a regional fire authority as an end result. Commissioner Farrens hopes that making this statement will prove to citizens and members of fire district 4 that he stands behind them. Commissioner Myrick agreed. Commissioner Hector would like to continue collaboration discussions and get more facts before making any decisions. Chief Eastman felt that resending the resolution at this point would hinder future service delivery discussions. After discussion the motion was tabled until March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Myrick asked for new apparatus update. Duty officer pick up is still scheduled to arrive in April, everything else will be delivered in November or December.

**AUDIENCE INPUT**

None

At 5:15 pm 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 15 minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

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

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman