

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on July 28, 2021 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Hector. All Commissioners and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present. Guests included City Council member Sharon Schiller, John Golden, Brian Jones and Megan Waite.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Hector.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of July 14, 2021 motioned for approval by Commissioner Farrens Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

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

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Eastman reported E3457 was dispatched to the Steptoe fire on July 22, was released from Steptoe and reassigned to the Cedar Creek fire on July 25. Todd Reiswig and Thomas Olsen staffed E3457 and are projected to remain on the Cedar Creek fire the remainder of their two-week commitment.

National Forrest Service requested ARFF Coverage from 0900-2100 while they have aircraft flying in and out assisting with the fires in the Blue Mountains East of Walla Walla. Chief Eastman reports a contract is pending.

In 2017, after the Blue Creek fire, Walla Walla Emergency Management Department applied for the Washington state defensible space grant. The granted was awarded. Walla Walla Emergency Management will be organizing fuel mitigation and increase defensible space in the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

Dean's Military assignment has been extended to September 20. He plans to return October 1st.

Chief Eastman reports a delay on the roof replacements at station 42 and 43. The current time frame for station 42 will be completed the first part of August, with station 43 to follow. Station 43 is in the process of being re-painted, it will be painted the same color as station 42.

Commissioners Myrick asked for a training tower update. Chief Eastman reported Walla Walla City Fire Deputy Chief Knowles advised the Department of ecology required a charcoal filter be installed due to the close proximity to Mill Creek. Specifications will be released soon.

Local law enforcement will be changing their response to some calls due to new state laws. We will see some changes and our members will need to respond with caution, asking for law enforcement to provide our protection if the need presents itself. We may see calls that we haven't seen before, like welfare checks. Chief Eastman will be meeting with sheriff Crider to discuss potential issues then updating the unsecured scene SOG.

Department of Ecology contacted Chief Eastman regarding agricultural burns and stated that certain agricultural burns are allowed during the Government issued Burn ban. Due to the extreme fire danger this summer, Chief Eastman felt that under the burn ban order agricultural burns should not be allowed. Chief Eastman asked for the Commissioners support. The commissioners all agreed that if a state wide burn ban is in effect we will not allow any burning. Chief Eastman will notify the Department of Ecology and the county commissioners.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Eastman reviewed the bids for the Heavy Equipment trailer and stated that all bids received met the specifications and that Titan Truck & Equipment's bid for \$41,809.65 (excluding federal excise and sales tax) was the lowest bid. Commissioner Myrick made a motion and Commissioner Hector seconded motion to accept the bid from Titan Truck & Equipment for \$41,809.65. It was unanimously approved.

Walla Walla Sherriff's Office Drone project funding was discussed. Chief Eastman reports the fire department would receive value from the drone with tethered repeater capabilities and un-tethered camera. Chief Eastman supported funding a small portion of the drone purchase. Commissioner Farrens motioned to fund \$500. Commissioner Myrick seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Protection Oregon Contract with Bert Spear at 61742 Mill Creek Road for \$308.26. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve contract. Commissioner Hector seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Walla Walla City council candidate Sharon Schiller inquired to the status of the RFA discussions and questioned if the RFA were to pass if it would alleviate the city's proposed ambulance utility tax. Commissioner Hector reported that RFA discussions were tabled due to covid, however, the City of Walla Walla, College Place and Walla Walla County Fire District #4 are collaborating their training and responses. Chief Eastman addressed the ambulance utility tax question stating that forming an RFA would most likely not alleviate the need for an ambulance utility tax.

At 4:50 PM Commissioner Hector 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 45 minutes.

At 5:45 PM 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 August 11, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: _____, Chairman