

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on April 26, 2023 at Station 41.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Myrick.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was presented, no changes to agenda. Commissioner Hector motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 2023 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Financial Report and Secretary's Budget Report for March were presented & reviewed.

Chief Eastman gave WFCA legislative update that HB1336 volunteer firefighter pension passed by senate. HB1498, allowing fire districts to call for air support without being a state mobilized fire passed. Also, SB5236 concerning Hospital staffing passed, it's unknown how it will affect EMS yet.

Chief Eastman reported the 2022 Annual report has been submitted to the Washington state Auditor. Thanked Megan for doing a great job completing the report.

Fire Commissioners Position #2 filing period is May 15-19th, 2023. Commissioner Hector acknowledged and stated he would file.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Washington state eliminated the face mask requirement for healthcare facilities. We have reduced our medical PPE requirement to Level 1 which is gloves and eye protection, and N95 when treating a known or suspected Covid positive patient.

Chief Eastman reported he received notification from Banner Bank with fee increases and minimum balance requirements. The Ambulance billing account is at Banner Bank. The monthly fee can be avoided if an average monthly balance of \$2,500 per month. We currently average \$5,000 to \$8,000 for a daily balance. Chief has requested information from the state auditor regarding clearing the account monthly. More to follow.

Type 4 chassis are scheduled to arrive at the dealership in Pasco this week or next. They will complete their inspections and we should see them in the next couple weeks. After we take delivery, we will send to Longview, WA for installation of the bed and water tanks.

Commissioner Meeting, April 26, 2023

City of Walla Walla Fire Chief Bob Yancey retires officially Friday, Deputy Chief Knowles was appointed new Fire Chief. City of Walla Walla Public Safety Communications Manager Steve Ruley Retires end of May.

Lieutenants testing is scheduled for May 24, 25, & 26 this will be a joint test with the City of Walla Walla.

Summer hires will be starting in mid-June, currently we have 3-4 members interested. All Commissioners are in favor of continuing with up to 4.

We completed our annual FAA inspection. Table top exercise May 16th at the Airport.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Committee hopeful, Pat McConnell would like to attend the Commissioner May 10th meeting to provide some guidance for the Board to better determine the end goal of the strategic planning committee and provide some advice.

Board retreat is scheduled for May 9th @ noon. Chief Eastman will determine a meeting place and make a reservation.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Commissioner Hector inquired if FEMA Scholarships were distributed to our members? Chief Eastman did share the scholarships, unknown if anyone applied.

Commissioner Hector inquired about the district response to the Washington Fire Chiefs Wage and Benefit survey. Chief Eastman report it is already complete.

Commissioner Hector advised he will be meeting with Tom Scribner and Rick Eskil, two of the Walla Walla City council members next week.

At 4:37 PM Commissioner Myrick 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 for approximately 5 - 10 minutes.

At 4:37 PM the regular meeting reconvened. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: _____, Chairman