

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on October 11, 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 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 September 27, 2023 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Snure Seminar October 25th from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

WFCA Conference October 26th to 28th.

November 18th Tri-County Commissioners meeting at 9am in Walla Walla. Discussed possible speakers.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Fire and EMS response and transport reports for the month of September was provided. One hundred twelve total responses for the month and sixty-six EMS responses with thirty-four transports for the month.

Captain's eligibility list testing scheduled for December 5th and 6th.

Pump testing was completed, and the test site was winterized.

SAM will be wrapping up next week.

Leather Helmet shields will be ordered to present at the end of 1 year probationary period or completion of fire academy for volunteers, to increase comradery and pride. Also, apparatus identifiers will be ordered for the accountability system.

Updates are being made to station 41 landscaping. The bark is being replaced with decorative rock, it looks nice and lower maintenance.

We interviewed 16 potential new volunteers. We are moving forward with eleven, two will be wildland only and the other nine will go through structure academy.

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Walla Walla County does not have any representation at the SE WA Special Operations Group. After a brief discussion Commissioner Hector volunteered to be a representative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Liz Loomis sent a new draft of key messages for review. Commissioners reviewed key messages and discussed briefly. We have a good draft timeline and will start seeing press releases in November.

Commissioner Hector gave an update on the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee meets twice monthly and with a lot of great conversation and ideas making great plans.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 231001001 through 231001058 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 \$245,518.32.

Captain John Davin has completed his 90 day retire/rehire separation and passed a physical exam. Commissioner Farrens motions to approve the rehire of Captain Davin. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion and carried.

Consider resolution 2023-01 amending policies 400-001 and 400-002. Policy 400-001 amendment caps volunteer compensation at 20% of a step A level firefighter. Policy 400-002 allows compensation for non-district assignments to include all non-represented exempt employees. Commissioner Hector motioned to adopt both policy changes presented in resolution 2023-01. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

2024 Airport fees for ARFF: Per our contract with the Port of Walla Walla, we must let them know what our annual increase will be for the following year by November 1st. Our annual wage and benefit increase for 2024 will be 4%. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hector motioned to for a 4% increase to the 2024 airport contract. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion.

AUDIENCE INPUT

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8th, 2023 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: _____, Chairman