

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on March 13, 2024 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Farrens, Commissioner Myrick and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present at station 41. Guests included Deputy Chief Golden and Brian Jones, Fire District #8 Commissioner Schwerin, Megan Waite in person at station 41.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Hector.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR POTENTIAL LEVY LIFT

Chief Eastman had a power point presentation. The proposal to reset the levy to \$1.26, up \$0.38 from the current rate of \$0.88. No public comment received prior the meeting or presented at the meeting. After a discussion, Commissioner Myrick motioned to approve a \$0.38 levy lift on the August 6th Primary ballot. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motioned and was unanimously approved. A resolution will be presented at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 28, 2024 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Myrick. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Legislative update, session ended last week. The tax increment financing (TIF) bill was passed by the legislature after some amendments. Two property tax exemption bills also passed that may jurisdictions with affordable housing projects.

SE WFCOA meeting in Dayton Friday, March 15th at 6:30pm – Commissioner Hector and Chief Eastman are planning to attend.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Fire and EMS response and transport reports for the month of February was provided. Seventy-two total responses for the month and fifty-one EMS responses with thirty-nine transports for the month.

Interviews for wildland volunteer firefighters this week. We will interview 8-9 candidates.

Interviews to fill vacant career firefighter/paramedic position next week. Interviewing three from our newly released list. We are anticipating a May 1st hire date.

EMS Stand-by at Walla Walla Community College rodeos this weekend.

Recruit Academy graduation, March 28th at 6:00 pm at station 41.

Chief Eastman and Deputy Chief Golden upcoming vacation leave. The April 10th meeting will remain on that date, Commissioner Hector and Chief Eastman will be absent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Authorization for Deputy Chief Golden to be added as a signature on fire district bank accounts at Banner Bank and Baker Boyer Bank. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve authorizing Deputy Chief John Golden as

Commissioner Meeting, March 13, 2024; Page 2

a signature on Banner Bank and Baker Boyer Bank accounts. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

Captain Box retirement dinner is March 25th at 6:00 pm at station 41.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 240301001 through 240301057 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 \$183,259.16.

Chief Eastman presented moving forward with hiring 2 - 4 summer hires again this year. Funding is allocated in the 2024 Budget for the summer positions. All Commissioners are in favor of continuing with up to 4.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Walla Walla County Fire District #8 Commissioner Don Schwerin stated the partnership between FD8 and FD4 has been exceptional and greatly appreciated by District #8.

At 4:41 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 lasted for 20 minutes. The Commissioners came back out of Executive Session at 5:05 and the meeting continued.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on March 27th, 2024 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____, Chairman