

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on May 8, 2024 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Commissioner Hector. Commissioners Myrick and Farrens and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present at station 41. Guests included Deputy Chief Golden, Brian Jones and 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 Farrens motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of April 24, 2024 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Farrens. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

The Labor Management Meeting scheduled for May 9th, will be at 2:30.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Fire and EMS response and transport reports for the month of April was provided. Sixty-Eight total responses for the month and forty-five EMS responses with twenty-six transports for the month.

Monday, May 13th at 6pm we will have a pinning ceremony for Casey Sewell's promotion to Lieutenant, and new hires Steve Dildine and Dean Walker.

Steve Dildine and Dean Walker started May 1st and are currently completing their orientation month. We also have 5 new sleeper residents that recently started. At this time only one person interested in Summer hire, starting mid-June.

Lt. Testing is scheduled for May 29-30. Three applications submitted so far.

Airport Emergency plan Tabletop exercise is scheduled for May 14th at 9:00 am. Lt. Todd Reiswig has been working with the Port of Walla Walla.

ARFF 342 is out-of-service, transmission issues. Kyle Crosswhite is working with the Port of Walla Walla and Mountain Hi to repair.

Deputy Chief Golden will be participating in Yakima's MCI drill this Saturday as an evaluator.

Washingtons Fire Chief's Conference is May 20-23 in Richland, Chief Eastman and Deputy Chief Golden with both be attending.

Upcoming live-fire training house burns in the area of 4th and Orchard are scheduled for May 20th and May 24th. Other houses in the area will be burned in the fall.

Several members have been training with the dozer near Station 45, working to clear a road. We did have a branch hit and shatter a window; we will have it repaired locally.

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May 18th we will have a staffed ambulance on stand-by at the Onion Man Triathlon from 8:00 am-1:00 pm. The Ducky Derby has asked for a tender to provide water to help with the duck race from 10:00 am-2:00 pm, due to low water levels in Mill Creek. The DNR Wildfire Ready Neighbor Program asked us to help with promoting the program at the Return to the River Salmon Festival from 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Washington state survey & rating bureau information has been submitted. That information will be reviewed and June 4th will be our 3-hour site evaluation.

Chief Eastman presented an updated contract with the Walla Walla Drag Strip. Attorney Brian Snure reviewed the contract, with minor changes he approved. The new contract has our members being paid as employees of the drag strip, and District #4 billing an hourly rate for apparatus.

Type 4 truck order for the valves was cancelled and we decided to go a different route to complete plumbing.

Levy Update, the resolution to appear on the August ballot was submitted by the May 3rd. Chief Eastman has 6 - 7 presentations scheduled to local services groups.

Commissioner Hector received a phone call from a 3rd party citizen about a woman receiving an invoice from District 4 charging her for an ambulance and an engine response after she specifically asked for just an ambulance. We do not bill for engine responses. Commissioner Hector will attempt to find out more information.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 240501001 through 240501059 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 \$221,337.59.

South Eastern Washington Special Operations group provides hazmat response to our area, we pay annually for this service. Recently the City of Walla Walla decided to remove themselves from the agreement with them and create their own hazmat response team. Over time the SE WA Special Operations group, based in the Tri-Cities, has made changes that do not provide a great service to our area. Consideration to partner with the City of Walla Walla Fire. Commissioners asked Chief Eastman to find out more about what that partnership would entail. More to follow.

New Members Steve Dildine and Dean Walker introduced themselves to the Board of Commissioners.

AUDIENCE INPUT

None

At 4:59 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 for 30 minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on May 22, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____, Chairman