

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on August 14, 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, Deputy Chief Woiblet, Lt. Jeff Wagner 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 Hector motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

WFCA notified of 2025 medical insurance rate will increase by 6.9%. Dental premium will not change.

Deputy Chief Golden has taken lead and started working on the 2025 budget. At a future meeting we will need to schedule the budget workshop.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Milton-Freewater Rural Fire department career staff all resigned on Tuesday, August 13. Walla Walla County EMS Director Heather Lee reported our agency is not licensed to assist with medical calls except mass casualty incidents. District #4 already has a mutual aid agreement City of Milton-Freewater and East Umatilla County fire departments for fire assistance.

The Fire and EMS response and transport reports for July were provided. One hundred twelve total responses for the month and fifty-eight EMS responses with thirty-three transports and three airport transports.

E3452 is at Mountain-Hi having a new pump installed, the new set-up will be like E3454. Engine 3413 is at Northwest Collision to have the cab door replaced this week.

Dozer Transport batteries have blown-up twice, the second time the batteries were dry. The assumption is that the trickle charger drained the batteries. Changes have been made to avoid this happening in the future.

Station 41 bay doors were damaged when E3441 hit them while responding to a call. The tactical tender was also responding, and the engine bay door was accidentally closed by the garage door remote in the tender. The garage door remote will be reprogrammed to avoid this in the future.

We have five applicants for the Captains and Lieutenants test, they are: Anthony Cannone, Todd Reiswig, Paige Senter, Kyle Crosswhite and Alex Skifstad-Bruner.

Chief Eastman presented the new policy for Job Description-Deputy Chief of Operations, section 500-007A. After brief discussion, Commissioner Myrick suggested one of the requirements be an EMS certification, all agreed. Commissioner Hector abstained from voting because he hadn't reviewed the job description yet. Commissioner Myrick motioned to approve Resolution 2024-06: Adding Deputy Fire Chief of Operations Job

Commissioner Meeting, August 14, 2024

Description, with EMS certification requirement. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried 2-1.

The pay rate for the Deputy Chief position for 2025 was discussed, the union contract has a 4% increase for 2025. Commissioners agreed that was an appropriate increase.

Walla Walla County Fair & Frontier Days is in a couple weeks, very few things needed to be addressed after inspection of the grounds. This year Walla Walla County Emergency Medical Services department will add a hands-only CPR instruction booth next to us.

Paige Senter and Gabe Aguillen are in Boston completing the paramedic boot camp. When they return, they will each have 200 clinical hours to complete. Paige will be able to get ride time on our ambulance while on duty.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ballots have been counted and the results have been posted twice. The second count showed an increase. At this point Chief is confident that it will continue to trend approved. Chief Eastman praised all those that contributed and made this successful. Moving forward we will send out messages on social media and news outlets thanking the community for the support. We will also follow up with information to the citizens on the progress being made on the item the levy is intended to be used for.

Payroll software estimate was previously presented and after investigating other options, Chief Eastman recommended moving forward with upgrading Springbrook. We are already operating with Springbrook and the cost is comparable to QuickBooks. We will move forward with Springbrook.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 240801001 through 240801053 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 it was carried out. The total for these was \$251,017.38.

Reviewing policies and procedures was tabled for a later meeting.

The 2015 Tahoe is scheduled to be replaced in early 2025 and the final date to order from the Washington State Bid for vehicles is approaching. The equipment replacement fund has \$71,000 for the replacement of the Tahoe. State bid price for a Ford F250 4x4 XL crew cab is \$58,000 including tax for the base pick-up. Commissioner Myrick would like to look at having the rest of the command until built out-of-house. Commissioner Farrens motioned to order a new F250 to replace the 2015 Tahoe. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion, and it was carried out.

General Fire has access to a stock Type 1 engine for \$479,000. The custom type 1 engine we purchased in 2022 for \$400,000 cost over \$600,000 today. Commissioners may consider purchasing a stock type 1 engine. Input from members will be obtained to assist with determining the replacement of the next Type 1 engine.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Lt. Wagner confirmed that station 44 will be responding to mutual aid request while E3452 is being repaired.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on August 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM.

Commissioner Meeting, August 14, 2024

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____, Chairman