

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on August 28, 2024 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Hector. Commissioners Myrick and Farrens and Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman were present at station 41. Guests included Deputy Chief Golden and Brian Jones 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 the 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 August 14, 2024 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

The SE WFCRA meeting in Dayton is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Commissioners Myrick and Farrens will be attending.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

E3452 and E3413 have been repaired and are back in service.

Firefighter Paramedic Alex Bruner submitted his letter of resignation effective September 6, 2024. He has accepted a position with Walla Walla Fire Department. We will start the process to fill this position as soon as possible.

Busy fall schedule with the Walla Walla Fair this week, pump testing is scheduled to start after Labor Day and Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> the SAM program kicks off.

Firefighter Paramedic Rachael Voegele is completing her ARFF training in Montana this week. She will return on Friday and then be assigned to B shift starting September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Interviews for the Training Officer position (lieutenant) were completed earlier this week and Lt. Todd Reiswig was selected. The proposed effective date for the transition is November 1, 2024 as we need to complete the hiring of a firefighter/paramedic. Kyle Crosswhite has been selected as the new Lieutenant on C shift to replace Lt. Reiswig. His promotion will be effective November 1, 2024 as well. Due to the unknown amount of time to hire a Mechanic/Firefighter it was discussed with the board to consider hiring one of the additional positions that is going to be funded with the levy lid lift early to assist with coverage and basic vehicle maintenance during this transition period. Following the discussion, Commissioner Farrens motioned and Chairman Hector seconded to authorize the hiring of one additional FTE (full time employee) along with our current vacant positions. The motion carried unanimously.

**Commissioner Meeting, August 28, 2024**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The agreement for the Springbrook payroll software along with updating our current financial software to the cloud has been completed and signed by both parties. We will be able complete the transition and operate with the new software for a few months prior to us assuming all payroll duties for Fire District 4 in January.

The Levy Lid lift officially passed with an approval rate of 63.15%. This is excellent support from the community. The public will be kept updated of our progress with the levy lid lift funds in our fall newsletter and ongoing social media communications. Commissioner Myrick recommended to contact the county auditor to verify if any paperwork needs to be completed by the fire district to ensure receiving the additional funding in 2025.

Local 4514 members along with chief officers enrolled in LEOFF are not interested in opting into Social Security. Therefore, no formal vote is needed since the Washington State Department of Retirement systems have determined we have been erroneously paying into Social Security. Social Security rules require that contributions be returned for the current year and previous three full years. (2021-2024). Megan Waite is working on the proper paperwork for submitting the reimbursement request to the IRS. The employer contributions side needs to be discussed. After a discussion, Commissioner Myrick motioned to distribute the previous employer contributions to the employee since this was a benefit for the employee in the form of social security retirement contributions following consultation with fire districts attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farrens and unanimously approved. Current employees will have a choice whether to have this funding placed in a deferred compensation program or direct payment to them.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Brought for consideration was an MOU with Local 4514 for a matching contribution of 6.2% into a Deferred Compensation program offered by Washington State DRS. After discussion, Commissioner Farrens motioned to approved MOU 2024-03 for Deferred Compensation Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myrick and unanimously approved.

**AUDIENCE INPUT**

None.

At 5:05 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 be for 20 minutes.

The regular meeting reconvened at 5:30 PM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman