

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on September 11, 2024 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 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, 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 Myrick motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

2025 Budget Workshop was discussed and scheduled for 2:00 pm on the October 8th at Station 41.

October Commissioner meetings are October 9th at 4:00 pm and October 30th @ 4:00 pm. Commissioner Farrens motioned to move the second regular meeting from October 23rd to October 30th due to scheduling conflicts. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

SE WFCA meeting is scheduled for September 20th in Dayton.

CHIEF'S REPORT

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

ATV345 responded to a tree fire caused by lightning in the Blacksnake Road area. While attempting to drive uphill the rear axles failed. Fire District #8 had an ATV on-scene and assisted moving our ATV to a safe location. We were able to retrieve ATV345 and determined the rear axle front u-joint went out. Parts are ordered, repairs should be complete next week.

Station 41, E3441 bay doors were repaired.

Staffing update – Former employee FF/PM Brian Gourdin has verbally accepted the full-time position vacated by Alex Bruner. Brian's start date is October 16, 2024 on C shift. Three candidates from our hiring list are scheduled for interviews on Monday the September 16th to fill the new firefighter/EMT position. Volunteer interviews will be in two weeks, we currently have 19 applicants!

Dispatcher, Patti Loney, is retiring at the end of the month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Eastman reached out to Attorney Brian Snure regarding reimbursement of the employer portion of social security refund to be distributed to the employee. Brian Snure replied and stated that this was an approved benefit, it is legal to pass onto the employee. Commissioners have the option to reimburse members before reimbursement is received from the state. Discussion as to when the fire district will reimburse employees was tabled until October 9th meeting.

Commissioner Meeting, September 11, 2024

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 240901001 through 240901054 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 \$201,290.18

Reviewing policies and procedures was tabled for a later meeting.

An ambulance transport financial assistance application was presented for consideration. The patient was transported in May 31, 2024 with an outstanding balance of \$962.00. They submitted the proper documentation. Based on their income they qualify for a 50% reduction. Commissioner Farrens motioned to provide a 50% reduction (\$481.00). Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

Commissioner Hector motioned for a hiring freeze until the first of the year, other than filling current open positions. Commissioner Hector further clarified that the current open positions were; one FF/Paramedic, and one FF/Mechanic. The positions to be frozen until after the first of the year were; three Lid Lift Funded FF/EMT and one Deputy Chief of operations. Commissioner Myrick asked to be kept informed about decisions being made. After some discussion motion died due to a lack of a second.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Brian Jones heard a rumor that RFA were being discussed at the City Council meeting tonight. The Commissioners are un-aware of any RFA discussions at this time.

At 5:19 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 5:45 PM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on September 25, 2024, at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____, Chairman