

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on September 25, 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 Walla Walla City Fire Chief John Knowles 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 the agenda. Commissioner Myrick motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hector requested an amendment to his motion. The minutes of the regular meeting of September 11, 2024 motioned for approval after amendment by Commissioner Farrens. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Budget workshop is October 8th at 2:00 p.m. at Station 41.

WFCA Conference is October 23rd -26th in Spokane. All commissioners confirmed they are attending and have room reservation information.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Eastman presented a 2024/2025 Organizational Chart draft that included 3 lid-lift funded positions and current open positions. Upcoming personnel changes include; Lt. Reiswig promoted to Training Officer, FF/Mechanic Crosswhite promoted to C-Shift Lt., Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Gourdin returning. Current and upcoming position open; Deputy Chief, Mechanic/Firefighter and one lid-lift funded position. The Deputy Chief position is currently advertised with a January 2025 start date, the lid-lift funded position has had interviews completed, and the mechanics advertisement will be released tomorrow. Commissioner Hector would like to slow the hiring process down and evaluate the departments direction and goals. One future goal is to have District 4 ALS personnel on the west side of the district. Would agreements with other agencies help accomplish that goal?

Mechanic/Firefighter job description change presented to reflect the number of years of mechanic experience required from 5 to 3 years. The board was supportive of this change. Formal resolution will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Firefighter/Paramedic Gourdin, will return as part-time while he completes his contract with his current employer and then become full time at the end of his contract in early 2025. Chief Eastman recommended his hourly compensation to be the rate which he had when he left us in February, which was \$30.33/hour. Commissioner Farrens motioned to compensate Brian

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Gourdin the hourly rate for his position at \$30.33 per hour while working part time. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

At this point we have received only one application for the Deputy Chief Position that closes on Monday, September 30.

End of October shift transfers; Firefighter/AEMT Paige Senter to C-shift, Firefighter/EMT Joe Zitterkopf to A-shift and Firefighter/EMT Steve Dildine to B-shift.

Volunteer Interviews were held Monday and Tuesday this week. We had 19 applicants and interviewed 15.

Update on Type 4's are moving along. Lt. Phil Tonn is planning to pump water through one of the new trucks next week, he has been working hard to get the trucks in service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Social Security refund amounts have been calculated for refunds and department matches, a total refund of \$472,156.80 (6.2% employee and 6.2% department).

NEW BUSINESS

Kyle with General Fire has reach out about a type 1 engine opportunity. General Fire has five stock type 1 Freightliners available at \$479,000 + tax. Once these are sold, next year's model will start at \$559,000 + tax. Engine 3416 at station 41 is due for replacement. Deputy Chief Golden will send the Commissioners more information via e-mail for their consideration.

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner for Washington state requires our ground ambulance transport rates be submitted to OIC by October 16, 2024 for the new balance billing law that takes effect January 1, 2025. Currently our ground ambulance transport rates are below other entities according to Systems Designs, our ambulance billing provider since we have not had a rate increase. Chief Eastman presented comparable rates from other departments in our area and proposed an increase of \$150 per transport and an increase in Treatment with medications but no transport of \$75 for residents and \$100 for non-residents. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the proposed annual service. Commissioner Myrick second the motion and was carried.

New Oregon Fire Protection Contract for Kathie Yeager at 50410 Umapine Road, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 was presented. Commissioner Farrens made a motion to accept new fire protection agreement. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion and was carried.

Commissioner Hector suggested Chief's Eastman, Golden, and Woiblet meet with other department Chief's to discuss future options of collaboration.

AUDIENCE INPUT

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM.

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 4:00 P.M.

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Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____, Chairman