

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on November 13, 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, City of Walla Walla Fire Chief John Knowles, Kyle Jagelski, 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 October 30, 2024 and the Public Hearing of October 30, 2024 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Myrick. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

New payroll bank account has been opened at Baker Boyer Bank.

Tri-County Fire Commissioner meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM at Station 41.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

The Fire and EMS response and transport reports for October were provided. Eighty-seven total responses for the month and fifty-eight EMS responses with thirty-nine transports and two airport transports. Maintaining a 70% EMS incident rate.

Kyle Jagelski from General Fire, presented a second option for a type 1 engine. Kyle had previously presented a Sourcewell quote for an International Chassis for \$526,256.00 + tax. Today Kyle presented a Freightliner chassis for \$511,417 + tax. Kyle talked about some of the differences in the trucks and some of the items not listed on the freightliner option. Chief Eastman has reviewed both Sourcewell quotes from General Fire for a Rosenbauer stock engine and from Hughes Fire for a Pierce stock engines. The engines are similar but have a few differences such as the Rosenbauer engine does not have a foam system which is a cost of \$12,478, ribbon stripping at a cost of \$10,557, or a booster hose reel at a cost of \$12,042. The Pierce stock engine comes with the foam system ribbon stripping and the cost to include the booster reel is \$4,800. The Sourcewell quote for the Pierce stock engine \$526,494 before sales tax or the \$4,800 for the booster reel. Therefore, the Pierce stock engine is a lower price with desired options than the Rosenbauer stock engine. The Pierce engine would be completed in April and has a lot to offer for the price. After a brief discussion, Commissioners Farrens motioned to purchase the Pierce stock engine off of the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contract #113021-OKC-1. The quoted price is \$526,470 plus the cost of adding the booster reel. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

The District Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at station 41.

Chief Eastman was approached by City of Walla Walla Fire Chief John Knowles to inquire if District #4 would be interested in discussing dropping boundary lines for incident response to provide the closest response for the citizens. Both departments have briefly discussed this with union representatives and they have questions but are supportive of the concept. Commissioners support moving forward with discussions.

We have three candidates for the mechanic's position. This coming Monday they will complete a panel interview and a practical skills test & Tuesday they have Chief's interviews.

**Commissioner Meeting, November 13, 2024**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

New volunteer members will be starting soon. All but one has completed background checks.

Social security department confirmed they received all the 941x forms and they have a 120-day turn-a-round. We can expect to receive funds by February 2025 at the latest. Significant claims equaling \$100,000 or more per form are subject to extra reviewing, none of our forms exceeded the \$100,000. Discussions on refund options were discussed. Commissioner Farrens motioned to reimburse 50% of the employer portion and 50% of the member portion in December 2024, then the remainder in January or February 2025. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 2 in favor and one opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 241101001 through 241101065 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 \$212,528.73.

2025 wage increase for non-represented staff, represented staff are receiving 4%, City of Walla Walla reports an increase of around 4-5%. Commissioner Myrick would like to discuss employee performance in executive session before determining the 2025 wages for non-represented staff.

Oregon contracts were tabled allowing Megan a chance to contact homeowners daughter.

An update on the Type 4 engines was requested. Deputy Golden reported that one of them is in the final stages of completion. Phil Tonn is doing many of the little things that need to be done for it to operational. The second truck will go faster.

**AUDIENCE INPUT**

City of Walla Walla Chief Knowles reported that the City of Walla Walla hired a company to provide comparative employment rates.

At 4:41 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 40 minutes.

The regular meeting reconvened at 5:21 PM.

Commissioner Farrens motion non-represented Chief and Deputy Chief receive a 6% cost of living pay increase and non-represented Administrative assistant receive a 10% cost of living pay increase. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on November 26, 2024, at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

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