

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on November 26, 2024 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Hector. Commissioners Myrick and Farrens were present at station 41. Guests included Deputy Chief John Golden, Walla Walla City Fire Chief John Knowles, 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 the agenda. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, motioned for approval 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 October were presented & reviewed.

A second voucher report for November was presented for approval, due to a miscalculation in payroll. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the expense voucher. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion, and it was carried. The total for these was \$3,357.96.

The second meeting in December falls on Christmas day, the Commissioners agreed to reschedule the second meeting to December 23, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Deputy Chief position was offered to and accepted by Brandon McKinney. An employment agreement was presented for review and approval. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the employment agreement with Brandon McKinney effective January 1, 2025. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The Mechanic position was offered to and accepted by Viorel Malancea. Both are scheduled to start January 1, 2025. A Pinning Ceremony will be scheduled for Brandon McKinney.

The fire district annual Christmas Dinner will be on Saturday, December 7th starting at 3:00 pm with the downtown light parade to follow.

Chiefs with City of Walla Walla and Fire District #4 had a good discussion about dropping boundary lines to provide the best and fastest service to the community. A list of short- and long-term goals created by the chiefs was presented. Implementation is expected in the first quarter of 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The type 1 engine order was completed, current total \$531,470. One more change order is planned for \$1,600 for air horns. We should be able to take delivery in late April or early May.

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Survey & Rating Bureau reported we maintained a rating of 5. Chief Eastman shared a document with the findings and where improvement could be made.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2025 wages worksheet was presented to the board. Chief Eastman clarified that Deputy Chief Golden has a five percent step raise in addition to the six percent raise approved for the Chief and Deputy Chief at the last meeting. Chief Eastman noted the part-time firefighter wage has not been updated yet. It was suggested to set it in the spring when we can compare rates of state and federal firefighters for the 2025 season. Commissioner Farrens motioned to accept the 2025 Wages worksheet. Commissioner Myrick second the motion and was carried.

The 2025 WFC Health Care Employer Application was presented for approval. There have not been any changes to the plans offered. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the 2025 WFC Health Care Employer Application. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Administrative Assistant Megan Waite thanked the Commissioners for the time and thought put into the wage increases for 2025.

Firefighter/EMT Brian Jones expressed concerns about potentially losing volunteer participation in the event of a boundary drop and that as far as he knew the boundary drop had not been discussed with volunteers at this point.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

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

Submitted by: Rocky Eastman, Secretary

Approved by: _____, Chairman