

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Hector. Commissioners Myrick, Commissioner Farrens, Secretary/Chief Rocky Eastman and Deputy Chief John Golden were present at Station 41. Guests included Megan Waite.

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 February 14, 2024 were 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 January were presented & reviewed.

Legislative update only 8 days left in session. The tax increment financing (TIF) bill is still being considered and may be passed by the Senate. The bill to allow up to a 3% annual increase for government levies did not move out of the Senate committee and is no longer being considered.

SE WFCM meeting is March 15th at 6:30 pm in Dayton. Commissioners Hector and Myrick will be attending.

Snure Law Webinar is April 19th from 9a- 12n.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Awards Banquet this Saturday, March 2nd. Social hour starts at 5:00 pm. Dean Atkinson Jr. Is our guest speaker discussing resiliency.

FF/EMT/PM Testing was completed yesterday. Sixteen total candidates. The list will be released Friday, March 8th, allowing participants an opportunity to contest any part of the test.

Chief Eastman gave staffing update Brian Gourdin completed his last shift with A-shift, transferring to volunteer status. He plans to keep his ARFF certification to assist with coverage. Chief's interviewed two candidates and plan additional interviews from our new list. Travis is on extended family medical leave until the end of April. Paige Senter and Timothy Bowen will be working on A-shift.

Recruit graduation – tentatively scheduled for March 28th

Department of Retirement Services has opened a limited audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Meeting, February 28, 2024

Resolution 2024-02; A resolution adopting a Strategic Plan for the fire district. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved and signed. Commissioner Farrens would like to go on record to thank everyone for all their time and effort into the plan.

Consideration for a Levy Lid Lift in August will be presented during the Public Hearing on March 13th meeting. Chief Eastman is planning on presenting a power point presentation.

Walla Walla County is now offering a wildfire ready neighbors' program through Dept. of Natural Resources. DNR is asking District 4 to provide personnel to provide 100 home risk assessments and to train DNR staff to provide risk assessments. An agreement was presented that will reimburse District 4 for 100 home-assessments and to train others to complete assessments. Commissioner Myrick motioned to approve the agreement. Commissioner Farrens seconded, and was unanimously approved and signed.

Resident program proposal was evaluated by attorney Brian Snure, he had some recommended changes. Deputy Chief Golden presented the suggested changes. We will send the proposed changes for Brian Snure to review again.

NEW BUSINESS

City of Walla Walla Fire Department is applying for Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to upgrade station toning at their fire stations and the dispatch interface system to a soft toning system at all staffed stations. Chief Wood has reached out to District 4 and College Place Fire to ask if we would be interested in participating with them on a regional grant. If approved for the grant the district would be responsible for 10% of the upgrade cost. After a discussion, Commissioner Myrick motioned to approve the interlocal agreement for the grant. Commissioner Farrens refrained from voting due to conflict of interest. Commissioners Hector seconded the motion and was carried.

Chief Eastman reported some minor damage to T3423 due to a backing accident at an incident.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Megan asked Commissioner Hector to sign a certificate for Saturday’s awards ceremony, to be presented to Chief Eastman for 35 years of service.

At 5:26 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 approximately 30 minutes. At 6:18 pm the regular meeting reconvened.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Chief Rocky Eastman

Approved by: _____, Chairman