

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Fire Commissioners of Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 held on January 14, 2026 at Station 41.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Farrens. Commissioners Myrick and Hector were present at Station 41 and Secretary/Chief John Golden. Guests include Deputy Chief Brandon McKinney, Brian Jones, and Megan Waite in person.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Farrens.

OATH OF OFFICE

Keith Farrens, re-elected to Commissioner Position #1, took the Oath of Office.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2026

Commissioner Farrens motioned for Commissioner Myrick for Chairman and Commissioner Hector for Vice Chair. Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The meeting agenda and minutes of the regular meeting of December 10, 2025 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Hector. Commissioner Farrens seconded the motion and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Local 4514 wrote a thank you card for their support of the department and the exercise equipment.

The Commissioners activity reports were reviewed and approved by each commissioner.

Vendor and Small works roster will be published in the Union-Bulletin on January 17th and January 24th.

Legislative day in Olympia January 29th. Chief Golden, Deputy Chief McKinney and Commissioner Farrens will be attending. Meetings have been scheduled with Representative Klicker & Rude and with Senator Dozier.

Next regular meeting is schedule for January 28th, Chief Golden, Deputy Chief McKinney and Commissioner Farrens will be traveling to legislative day in Olympia. After a brief discussion it was decided to move the meeting to Tuesday, January 27th.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire and EMS incidents report for 2025 overall were provided. A total of 1,241 incidents in 2025, compared to 1,158 in 2024. Seventy percent of calls were medical.

E3411 back in service after repairs at Mountain Hi.

Transition to Image Trend is still going well, process is going smoother than expected due to other agencies in the county using same system.

Automated dispatches will start soon during normal business hours to allow overhead staff to monitor. Updated call types will also go into effect around February 1.

Structure Academy started January 6th with 15 members from Dist. #4, 10 from College Place Fire and 2 from Dist. #6.

Firefighter Paramedic Brian Gourdin started back on C-Shift, replacing Dean Walker who resigned.

Commissioner Meeting, January 14, 2026

Volunteer Captain Josh Williams at Station 42 has received a promotion at work and can no longer commit to the duty officer rotation. Chiefs are considering alternative schedule.

Previous summer hire and Volunteer firefighter/EMT Aidan Renwick was offered a full-time position with Richland Fire, his last shift was January 13th.

David Brock, a previous North County volunteer firefighter, purchased a chainsaw from Facebook Marketplace. Turns out it was one that had been stolen from District #4. We have gone through the chainsaw and got it running, will need new chain and bar. Chief Golden reported the return and information to Cpl. Brown with the sheriff's office. Brian Jones suggested advising the insurance company of the returned property. Commissioners wish to reimburse David for the \$50 he is out for his purchase.

Retirement celebration for Brian Jones and John Davin on Monday, January 26th dinner at 5:30 pm and recognition at 6:30 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Hector inquired if Deputy Chief McKinney was invited to the WESCOM Board meetings, he feels that it would be beneficial to have DC McKinney attend those meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Payroll and expense vouchers numbered 260101001 through 260101065 were presented for payment. Chief Golden reviewed some of the big-ticket items. After a few questions by Commissioner Hector, Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the expense vouchers. Commissioner Hector seconded the motion and was carried. The total for these were 304,992.74.

Updated 2026 wage sheet was presented, previously the point stipend was mis-calculated. Commissioner Farrens motioned to approve the updates 2026 Wages form. Commissioner Hector seconded that motion and was carried unanimously.

Chief Golden expressed the need for additional office support. Working on a job description, wages, hours and logistics.

AUDIENCE INPUT

None.

At 4:47pm Commissioner Myrick 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 30 minutes. The Commissioner came out of Executive Session at 5:27 pm and the meeting continued.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 PM

The next regular Walla Walla County Fire District No. 4 Commissioner Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27th, 2025 at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Chief John Golden

Approved by: _____, Chairman