

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
May 10th, 2021**

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm at East Valley Fire Station 40. Those present via Zoom were Commissioner David Ramynke, Commissioner Les Riel, Commissioner Ben St. Mary; at Station 40 were Chief Dale Hille, Captain Andy Babcock, Admin Director Jenifer Huitt and Admin Assistant Katelynn Hogan.

Chairman Ramynke called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended. Seconded and carried.

LIMITED OPEN PUBLIC INPUT for items NOT on the Agenda – Public comment for items that are on the agenda are allowed as the item comes up for discussion during the meeting.

Chairman Ramynke noted no public attended the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- Commissioner Riel requested at the last meeting that we needed to add to policy that all BOFC members and the public are allowed to participate electronically/conference call/remotely as needed. The concern was to make sure we still had that option available to those who may not want to attend physically for personal reasons in the future when all the OPMA restrictions have been lifted by the government. Just showing for the boards information that this has already been done with the policy adoption on 3/29/2021.
- Lost Receipt Affidavit \$60.56
- Personal Charge \$86.45 Reimbursed to District

b. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- April 26th, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

c. **CLAIMS REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL**

Claims Requests FIRE	\$ 36,206.40
Claims Requests EMS	\$ <u>1,674.00</u>
Total Claims	\$37,880.40

d. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Washington State Parks & Rec request for Annual Yakima Sportsman State Park Invoice

e. **CHIEF'S REPORT** - Attached

Vice-Chairman St. Mary made a motion to approve the consent agenda items a-e as submitted. Seconded and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Sale of R41 for \$75,000.00 request transfer of funds, Resolution 2021-01 from FIRE to CP.

Amended to include deduction for 10% of sale to Brindlee Mountain for commission. New Resolution total to be \$67,500 from Fire to CP. Commissioner Riel made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-01 as amended. Seconded and carried.

NEW BUSINESS - None

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

EMS Admin Board meeting Wednesday 9am via Zoom, Dave the Chairman from AMR is going to be out of town so Commissioner Riel is Vice-Chair and will be running the meeting.

Commissioner Ramynke reported the communications meeting on May 6th included an update from Joey Weedin from Racom who visited all the tower sites and assessed the quality and condition our tower sites were in. Joey Weedin included a quote for all the updates and upgrades that the Communications members had previously talked about. His quote with tax is \$175,000 to address the current concerns. Joey reported to the Communication Committee that the condition and maintenance of

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the sites are poor. Which brought the Committee to the conclusion that The City of Yakima is not taking care of the maintenance for these Tower sites like they have been contracted to do. The board members don't feel like they are considered a priority with the city due to the Tower sites current conditions and the state of the equipment. The nicest location at Eagle Point is the newest facility but one of the antennas is crooked on the tower and a wire cable is not attached appropriately. There are old batteries along with the condition of the cable management systems that are not being adequately maintained. Commissioner Ramynke stated it is not a professionally maintained facility and is embarrassing. Due to our emergency Response priority these issues need to be dealt with right away. At Cowiche Mountain the backup generator which is supplied by Washington Broadband is inoperable. If a power outage was to occur there's a delay which the batteries are supposed to help with but due to it being inoperable the battery life is only a 2-3 hours life span. The antenna there has been ran into so its bent as well and is a safety hazard for the crews that would maintain the Towers. Chairman Ramynke stated the battery issues should be maintained by Washington Broadband, we are in need of someone reporting the issues at these sites so the Executive Committee & Communications Committee can hold companies like Washington Broadband accountable. Chairman Ramynke stated that the two things the Communications Committee has to consider is the bid for the new equipment from Racom and consider a new maintenance contract with Racom instead of the City of Yakima for our communication tower sites. Chairman Ramynke announced Rex Reed is now the Vice-Chairman for the Communications Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Resignation of Volunteer Firefighter Joey Wallberg dated July 1, 2021.
- Promotion of Volunteer Tim Milbert from Probation to Firefighter effective May 1, 2021.

FC Hille clarified that Volunteer Milbert is willing to do all he can for the district when it comes to pulling hose and driving Tender, he just doesn't want to do the strenuous Fire attack with SCBA and crawling on the floor. But elaborated that he will be an asset to the department as far as getting Apparatus to incidents and participating.

- Volunteer EMT Silvestry is back from her leave of absence as of May 10, 2021

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Captain Babcock informed that spring recruit training is complete and coming soon there will be other Volunteers coming off of probation that are just waiting on their certification. FF Hille elaborated that Captain Babcock is doing a great job with encouraging our volunteers to move to compliance and progress in our Volunteer program.

FC Hille stated Travis Young has expressed interest in our summer help position and thinks he would be great for the position.

AD Huitt expressed the call volume for inquiries on renting our training room to the public, although we are in stage 3 FC Hille stated that waiting for the Governor to announce next week if we will remain in our current stage level is probably in our best interest. FC Hille informed that he was contacted by the Terrace Heights Community Association about putting on an open house for Station 42. He expressed if the Governor keeps us in stage 3 then we should plan to do so.

FC Hille expressed interest in moving forward with a BBQ event in August at the Moxee Park for staff, Volunteers and their families. Stated we are behind in pinning people, moving off probation, recognizing people and swearing himself in. Due to the annual banquet being pushed back for over a year FC Hille expressed interest in just having the event catered, that way nobody has to worry about cooking and everyone can just come and enjoy their time. Commissioner Riel stated its best just to reserve an area at the park from the City of Moxee and bring in the caterer.

FC Hille stated that Chief Craig offered up the West Valley Fire Conference room for the Chief/Commissioners meeting on June 4th.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION - RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

Chairman Ramynke announced at 4:25 pm that Chief Hille, AD Huitt and the board would go into Executive Session until 4:40 pm. The executive session was extended to 4:50 pm. The meeting reconvened at 4:50 pm. Chairman Ramynke announced the board was in agreement with AD Huitt moving to Tacoma, working from home on salary, and consulting for a few months before resigning.

SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS

The documents will be held for signature at a later date due to OPMA restrictions.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Monday, May 24th 2021 at 4:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business Chairman Ramynke adjourned the meeting at 4:51 pm.


Chairman David Ramynke


Commissioner Les Riel

Attest:


Vice-Chairman Ben St. Mary


District Secretary Jenifer S Huitt