

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
October 11th, 2021**

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm at East Valley Fire Station 40. Those present via Zoom were Chairman David Ramynke, Commissioner Les Riel, Admin Director Jenifer Huitt, Lieutenant Erickson and; at Station 40 were, Fire Chief Dale Hille, District Secretary Katelynn Hogan, and Firefighter Garrett Riley. Commissioner St. Mary had an excused absence.

Commissioner Riel called the meeting to order at 1600.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

FC Hille requested to add under unfinished business Lt McDonald Update and Vaccination Mandate Update. Commissioner Riel made a motion to amend the agenda, Chairman Ramynke seconded unanimously.

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 opened up discussion for public attending the meeting. No public input at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**
 - October 7th Payroll
- b. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - September 27th, 2021 BOC Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. **CLAIMS REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL**

Claims Requests Fire	\$	42,975.99
Claims Requests EMS	\$	<u>3,329.12</u>
Total Claims	\$	46,305.11
- d. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None
- e. **CHIEF'S REPORT** – Attached

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted items a-c and d as submitted with no correspondence. Chairman Ramynke seconded motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Lieutenant McDonald Update

FC Hille informed the board that Sophia has drafted a Separation Agreement that that has been sent the attorney and Lt McDonald for review. If the separation agreement is signed by Lt Mc Donald, the union and the Chief then there would be no Loudermill Hearing that would be the separation agreement.

- Vaccination Mandate Update

FC Hille has sent out letters to the three people that requested exemptions that stated their exemptions were accepted but there are no accommodations were offered to them. FC Hille is also drafting a letter that would go out to all the unvaccinated people that later will go out the morning of October 19th which according to the attorneys would be when the mandate would come into effect. This letter would go out to anyone who is unvaccinated. At that time, we also would send a separation letter to the people who did not get accommodations to their exemption requests asking for there uniform etc. back.

NEW BUSINESS

FC Hille informed the board that the district has four new recruits Mr. Church, Juarez, Palacios, and Schlotman. Bringing the new recruits in front of the commission to approve them

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as volunteers pending background checks, medical review etc. FC Hille expressed this year has been a bit accelerated due to the fact that our recruit academy with the Lower Valley which started last Tuesday night. So, these 4 people have gone to a classroom portion but they have nothing scheduled as far as hands on training that they would need to have medical or anything before they will have an opportunity to do that. Chairman Ramynke asked if our district will continue to use Lower Valley for our recruit academy? FC Hille stated he would hope so last year he and Captain Babcock had tried to accomplish this last year but it just didn't work out because they start in October and we traditionally start in November. The idea would be to have a conversation with them once our district hires a new training person so we can align ourselves with Lower Valley so our recruitment period and our cut off dates line up more with them because they also only have a small number of participants so this makes it so much easier than running our own. Commissioner Riel asked AD Huitt for clarification if there needs to be a motion or action request to approve. AD Huitt stated she was unsure and thinks the FC has the leverage to hire and terminate as needed as long as terminations are reviewed by the board. The board approved the new recruit.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Riel noted the Washington Fire Commissioners Association Annual Conference coming up he will be heading out around noon on Tuesday October 19th. Board dinner with spouses and health care committee etc. Tuesday night at Tulalip Resort itself. The Conference then starts with the board meeting at 9:00 am Wednesday morning. FC Hille is working on getting district logo masks to wear during the conference since it is mandatory. Chairman Ramynke asked DS Hogan to cancel his WFCFA Conference registration due to him having other commitments he needs to attend to. DS Hogan noted she will complete before the end of day. Commissioner Riel noted all members of the association not attending needs to fill out the proxy vote form because each member votes individually. Commissioner Riel noted that whoever doesn't attend fills out the proxy form and the person voting for the unattended has to have that proxy form in person to be able to vote for them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Riel wanted to remind everyone of the Budget retreat on October 15th and would like everyone to attend in person if able. The rest of the board agreed. Chairman Ramynke asked DS Hogan to make sure the room is wiped down; social distancing is being followed and everyone is wearing a mask. DS Hogan agreed.

FC Hille stated the collective bargaining agreement draft has been sent to the local for their review and potential ratification.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

FC Hille stated with the potential of losing our probationary Firefighter as things look right now FC is going to be asking the commissioners that we do an immediate hire. He would like to do that with in house personnel. That notification would go out via email the morning of the 19th announcing the position then they would provide a resume and cover letter. After a week they would send those back in and soon after we would schedule a panel interview time for possibly four candidates as well as a Chiefs interview the next day or something like that. With the hopes of getting somebody on board to fill that vacancy that we have an issue of right now' at the time of separation of Lt McDonald and at the time of separation of probationary firefighter Avery Rooks. However due to the fact that we are building the hiring list off of the National Testing Network we hope to have 26 names, of which CPT Lenseigne has helped with. The letters will be going out as soon as possible hopefully Friday or Monday stating what those people need to provide. As

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soon as we get that back and we see how many people we have the process as of now looks like testing will be the 18th and 19th of November, and then interview process etc. Hopefully we will have a recommendation for the BOC meeting December 13th to offer conditional offers which as of right now is two. The immediate hire however would hopefully be brought to the board for approval on the first BOC meeting in November if not sooner in a special meeting. Chairman Ramynke stated we do have that consistency with in our volunteers to be able to pull from with in due to our alike standards between them and our career staff to try and maintain that continuity in our district in this emergency time frame we are dealing with.

FC Hille stated we are building a list off of our first of the year hiring list in hopes to have 6-8 people that would be on the list then for potential upcoming hires if we hire and they don't work out we would go to the next in line.

SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS


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

NEXT SPECIAL MEETING – Monday, October 15th, 2021 at 8:00 am.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Monday, October 25th, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

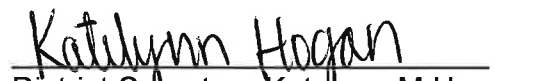
Commissioner Ramynke made a motion to adjourn. There being no other business Chairman Ramynke adjourned the meeting at 4:18 pm.


Chairman David Ramynke


Commissioner Les Riel

Attest:


Vice-Chairman Ben St. Mary


District Secretary Katelynn M Hogan