

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2023**

The meeting convened at 3:30 pm at East Valley Fire Station 40. Those present at Station 40 were Chairman Ben St. Mary, Commissioner Les Riel, Fire Chief Dale Hille, Deputy Fire Chief Ray Lamoureux, and Administrative Assistant Morgan Frost.

Chairman St. Mary called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman St. Mary lead in the pledge of allegiance.

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 St. Mary noted there was no public input at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the agenda as circulated. Chairman St. Mary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- September 07, 2023 Payroll

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- August 28th, 2023 BOC Regular Meeting Minutes

CLAIMS REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

Claims Requests Fire	\$	65,566.48
Claims Requests EMS	\$	5,218.13
Total Claims	\$	70,784.61

CORRESPONDANCE

CHIEF'S REPORT – Attached

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Chairman St. Mary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Annexation

FC Hille told the board there will be another RFA meeting on September 19th, 2023 at 3:00pm. This meeting will be held at Station 95 in Yakima and Commissioner Riel let the board know he will be attending. FC Hille also informed the board that DC Lamoureux, Fire Chief Aaron Markham, Deputy Fire Chief DJ Goldsmith and himself will be getting together prior to the RFA meeting to discuss their options and thoughts on the annexation.

- Levy Lid Lift

FC Hille informed the board there is no new business on the Levy Lid Lift at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- Budget Workshop

The Commissioners, DC Lamoureux and FC Hille agreed the budget workshop will be October 3rd, 2023 at 8:00 am. This will be a special meeting held at Station 40 to go through the 2024 budget, any overtime issues the Department is having and the SAFER Grant. Up until the SAFER Grant is given, FEMA will cover the 10 hours firefighters/EMTs get through FLSA.

- Budget Hearing

The Commissioners and Chiefs also agreed the budget hearing will be October 9th, 2023 at 3:30 pm in addition to the regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

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COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- **ARPA Contract**

FC Hille informed the board that he received the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Contract from Yakima County Financial Services Director Craig Warner regarding the grant the state received. FC Hille told everyone that he had emailed Craig Warner about redacting the items in the contract that do not pertain to the department. Craig informed FC Hille that if he were to need to make any changes that our department's contract would be set aside and dealt with after every other department. With this contract being able to allow the department to purchase new thermal imaging cameras, FC Hille agreed to sign.

- **Overtime**

DC Lamouruex informed everyone that he has been working on overtime scenarios including our current situation with injuries, vacations and PFML and how much overtime we can afford to give. So far, we have spent \$260,000 in overtime wages.

- **Emergency Reporting System**

ERS has been purchased by ESO and they are currently increasing the prices claiming some agencies were undercharged. The Chiefs were approached by representatives of ImageTrend and brought it to the boards' attention. This program would allow the Department to buy certain programs individually rather than a one-size-fits-all scenario, there are no inspections and your current programs stay in place. FC Hille also told everyone that ImageTrend has an add on where if the firefighters don't have service while on a call, they can log the information on their tablet and when they are in service again the information will automatically transfer to the ambulance. DC Lamouruex told the board he will take charge on this and look into gaining more information.

- **Ready Rebound**

FC Hille told the board that the Department is currently looking into using a service called Ready Rebound for any injuries that may occur. This program would allow you to call an 800 number that is provided and get connected with a representative that will deal with the Department of Labor and Industries directly that way wait times for doctors' visits, MRIs, surgeries, etc. will be cut in half. The cost would be around \$150/year per career firefighter and covers their families as well.

- **Service Plaques**

Recently the Department had name plates made to place on a service plaque for former Chief Alan Benny and former Fire Commissioner David Ramynke.

- **Open Commissioners Position**

Chairman St. Mary informed everyone that he has an interested individual for the open Commissioners position. Tyler Brandt is the General Manager for the nursery operation at Brandt's Fruit Trees here in Yakima. Tyler has also been involved in the fire service in the past and would like to help out again. The Department will be having a Special BOC Meeting on September 26th, 2023 at 3:00 pm to welcome Tyler to the District.

- **Solar Farms – Extending the Moratorium**

FC Hille told the board that he attended one of the Yakima County Commissioners meetings about the solar farms and extending the moratorium. FC Hille explained there was a lot of misinformation regarding the concerns of fire response in case of fires at the solar farms. FC Hille explained that as long as the solar farms have suppression systems and no flammable vegetation that there are no fire concerns. FC Hille also told the board that most fire suppression systems require you to keep the doors closed in order for them to take effect.

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SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS

Due to both Commissioners attending the meeting in person, documents will be held for signatures after the meeting.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Monday, September 25th, 2023 at 3:30 pm.

NEXT SPECIAL MEETING – Tuesday, September 26th, 2023 at 3:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business Chairman St. Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 pm. Commissioner Riel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.



Chairman Ben St. Mary



Vice-Chairman Les Riel

Open Commissioner Position

Attest:

OUT OF OFFICE UNTIL 10/02/23
District Secretary Katelynn Hogan