

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
July 22nd, 2024**

The meeting convened at 3:30 pm at East Valley Fire Station 40. Those present at Station 40 were Chairman Les Riel, Vice-Chairman Tyler Brandt, Commissioner Ben St. Mary, Interim Fire Chief Ray Lamoureux, District Secretary Katelynn Roberts, Administrative Assistant Morgan Frost, Lieutenant Nick Henle, Lieutenant CJ Erickson and Firefighters Jay Cruz, Jack Wutzke, Travis Young and Nate Uriostegui. Fire Chief Dale Hille remains on administrative furlough.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Riel 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 Riel noted there was no public input at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Fund Balances as of June 30th, 2024

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - None

CLAIMS REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

Claims Requests FIRE	\$	13,478.54
Claims Requests EMS	\$	0.00
Total Claims	\$	13,478.54

CORRESPONDANCE

- Jr. Firefighter Academy Parent Feedback

AA Frost received an email from a parent of a child who attended the Jr. Firefighter Academy thanking the department for putting on the event and said their child had a great time.

- Burn Camp & Kimberly McMurray's Story

CHIEF'S REPORT – Attached (May & June)

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

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. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public.

Chairman Riel called the executive session to order at 3:31 pm and requested 20 minutes with the board. At 3:38 pm Chairman Riel requested IFC Lamoureux to join the executive session. At 3:51 pm Chairman Riel requested an additional 5-minutes be added and the executive session adjourned at 3:56 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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- Levy Lid Lift

IFC Lamoureux informed everyone that he finished his last meeting regarding the levy lid lift with the East Valley Community Enhancement Association and has had nothing but positive feedback.

- Training Facility

IFC Lamoureux informed the board that he received an estimate from SymTech for the sealed drawings at \$23,901, which still keeps the department within the extra \$80,000 allotted from not going with the other bid. Commissioner Brandt made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the sealed drawings from SymTech. Commissioner St. Mary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- FY2023 AFG Grant Award Acceptance

IFC Lamoureux informed the board that the department received half of the AFG Grant for a total of \$53,426 but did not receive the other \$56,000 for a new extractor and dryer for Station 42 in Terrace Heights.

- District Secretary Contract

The board made a request that there be some revisions made to the District Secretary's contract and brought to the next meeting on August 12th, 2024.

- Acceptance of Medical Retirement

After a brief discussion the board made a decision to table the acceptance of Fire Chief Hille's medical retirement at a special meeting where FC Hille can be present.

- Appointment of New Fire Chief

The board has also tabled the appointment of the New Fire Chief until there is a final decision made on FC Hille's medical retirement as it could interfere with the Department of Labor and Industries. Commissioner Brandt made a motion to increase IFC Lamoureux's wages to \$135,000 effective immediately and should be dated back to June 8th, 2024 when he took over the Fire Chief's duties. Chairman Riel seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chairman Riel informed everyone that there was a data breach in the WFCOA and that they are offering security to members. Chairman Riel also informed the board that TPSC will be increasing 3%.

At the next county communications committee meeting Commissioner Brandt informed everyone that they will be discussing the Cowiche Tower and the safety issues that are hindering the timeline for repairs.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

IFC Lamoureux informed the board that in the bid for the new Brush 40 the department included an approval for other departments to use our bid process. IFC Lamoureux was contacted by Pocatello, ID about using our bid process and build to order a brush truck of their own and is asking approval from the board to sign an interlocal agreement.

IFC Lamoureux also informed everyone that the department will have 10-15 new volunteers by the time recruit class starts in January and he is working with firefighters Jack Wutzke and Collyn Stafford on getting uniforms and PPE on order. Chris Foster from the City of Moxee will also be joining the department again as a support volunteer and will be in charge of bringing and manning the air support apparatus to fires when he's available. IFC Lamoureux also informed everyone that the lower valley will be dropping out of the countywide recruit academy as they do not have enough candidates. If any more were to sign up between now and then they will be added to the January class. The department is also looking for what the cost of fire protection will

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be per year for the new solar farm that will be built out in no man's land off of Highway 24 by Cypress. IFC Lamoureux is looking to charge \$1,200 and the company had no argument.

SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS

Due to more than one Commissioner attending the meeting in person, documents will be held for signatures for the next regular board meeting.

NEXT SPECIAL MEETING – Thursday, August 1st, 2024 at 2:00 pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Monday, August 12th, 2024 at 3:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business Chairman Riel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 pm. Commissioner St. Mary seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.



Chairman Les Riel



Commissioner Ben St. Mary

Attest:



Vice-Chairman Tyler Brandt



District Secretary Katelynn M. Roberts