

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

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm at East Valley Fire Station 40. Those present via Zoom were Commissioner David Ramynke, Commissioner Ben St. Mary, and Commissioner Les Riel. Those present at Station 40 were Chief Dale Hille, Captain Andy Babcock, Captain Ryan Evers, Lieutenant Nick Henle, Firefighter Parker Andrienas, Firefighter Chris Robillard, Probationary Firefighter Avery Rooks, Volunteer Firefighter Collyn Stafford, Admin Director Jenifer Huitt, and Admin Assistant Katelynn Hogan.

Chairman Ramynke called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated and the meeting continued.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- January 7, 2021 Payroll

b. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- December 28, 2020

c. CLAIMS REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

Claims Requests Fire \$ 81,385.60

Claims Requests EMS \$ 34,890.71

Total Claims \$116,276.31

d. CORRESPONDENCE

- Yakima County Elections Division notice of candidate filing is May 17-21. Position 3 for Chairman Ramynke expires 12/31/2021.

e. CHIEF'S REPORT - Attached

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the consent agenda items a-e as submitted. Seconded and carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- NTN 2021 Renewal \$500.00, no price change

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the NTN renewal as submitted. Seconded and carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- a. Commissioner Riel will attend the 1/23/2021 WFCA Board Meeting at noon via Zoom
- b. Chairman Ramynke has had no further progress with the Communications committee. After discussion it was decided to take the information to the Yakima City Commissioners to get things moving.
- c. Chairman Ramynke will attend the Raycon Demo on 1/21/21 at 1 pm. Chief Hill is attending the Chief's Meeting & a Mutual Aid Response Plan Meeting on the same day.
- d. YCFCA quarterly dinner meeting on February 18th has been cancelled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION – Limited between the Board and Staff only – NO PUBLIC INPUT

- a. Fire Chief Hille stated the All Call Meeting went well and has some information to get the Strategic Plan started.

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- b. Chief Hille met with Bill Lotz who will organize the chaplain training and contacting all of the interested chaplains in Yakima County set up.
- c. Chief Hille noted the AFG grant cycle is open and is looking at submitting one for a fit tester which should cost \$15,000-20,000.
- d. The Financial NFA class has been postponed to June.

SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS

The documents were presented to the Board for their signature.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Monday, January 28th, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business Chairman Ramynke adjourned the meeting at 4:16 pm.


Chairman David Ramynke


Commissioner Les Riel

Attest:


Vice-Chairman Ben St. Mary


District Secretary Jenifer S Huitt



YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #4

CHIEF REPORT

JANUARY 11, 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION:

With the beginning of a new year comes a chance to revisit the past, learn lessons, and move ahead. I see several opportunities for growth as we carry the forward momentum of 2020 into the new year. Looking at change in the East Valley coming, we are moving proactively to keep service levels up to the standard the community deserves. I look forward to working with the staff and community to make this coming year a positive step for East Valley Fire.

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION:

With several of our career firefighters, and volunteers being tested positive for Covid, I feel that we have been doing a very good job of keeping our staffing at full response levels, despite people having quarantine time. Most of the cases seem to be on the mild side, and precautions are being taken at all stations to lessen the potential spread. Nine of our personnel have opted to receive the Covid vaccination so far.

The new rescue tools have arrived for E42 and are in process of being mounted. There will be a training for all shifts as well as volunteers on the new Rescue 42 stabilization jack system the end of January. Addition of these tools has brought both engines to similar status for operations, aiding in shift alteration personnel response. We are very fortunate to have this.

The new springs on the rear of both engines have had a noticeable difference in the attitude of the engines. They no longer have "droopy rear" syndrome. It is felt that installing the new springs has helped in handling of the engines. We are continuing to monitor to see if more work is warranted.

Our recruit class has diminished to one candidate. This unfortunate situation seems to be common in the fire service with no fault of anyone here. Captain Babcock will be working with our single recruit through online training as well as one-on-one instruction to bring him into the volunteer ranks. We have a couple of lateral applications which we are reviewing at this time also.

The radio system is a high priority for all of the Upper Valley. Meetings continue, but it is reaching a critical stage of needed repair. More to come.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

We continue the onboarding process for both Kadee Hogan as administrative assistant as well as Avery Rooks, probationary firefighter. Both have shown exemplary attitude as well as work ethic in their initial time with EVFD, and are proving to be good choices for the positions. We anticipate that continuing.

I have made contact with both Selah Fire and Yakima Fire as to adjusting their second alarm response to include EVFD. We feel that with the current staffing we would be able to provide a more robust response to them when needed, always keeping in mind the response for our district as the high priority. The County Chiefs will be meeting on January 21 to discuss any changes to the response matrix.

As the Assistance to Firefighter Grant program has opened, I am currently writing a micro-grant for purchase of a SCBA Fit Test machine and three years of calibration. This machine will give us a more positive and documentable fit of SCBA masks for personnel. It will not rely on subjective measurements as we currently do, but rather objective annual testing. The grant will be for approximately \$15,000 with a 10% fire district match.

SHIFT REPORTS:

Attached you will find a report from each of the shift Captains and Captain Babcock as to the month's activity and call response.

ONGOING EFFORTS...

- Policy & Procedure Book Revision
- Reviewing and updating the YCFD4 strategic plan
- Budget review and monitoring
- IFSAC Testing
- Daily matters

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the East Valley.

Dale E. Hille



Fire Chief

