

YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 12th, 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, Admin Director Jenifer Huitt, and Admin Assistant Katelynn Hogan.

Commissioner Riel called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as distributed. Seconded and carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- Fund Balances as of February 28th, 2021
- April 7, 2021 Payroll

b. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- August 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- April 5, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

c. **CLAIMS REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL**

Claims Requests Fire	\$ 36,345.85
Claims Requests EMS	\$ <u>23,688.16</u>
Total Claims	\$ 60,034.01

d. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- YCFCA Business Meeting on May 20, 2021 6 pm at West Valley Fire Department
- Yakima County Elections Division deadline for candidate applications is Friday May 28, 2021
- Long Term Care Insurance Program funded by a 0.58% Payroll Tax beginning January 1, 2021 information provided by Summit Law

e. **CHIEF'S REPORT** – Attached

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Seasonal Help Job Description

FC Hille stated there was talk of potentially having two seasonal positions due to temporary staffing needs however we just don't have enough work during our slow periods for two positions. Yakima County has said they will be servicing the hydrants this year. Chief would like to advertise the position within the district before extending it out to others. The board agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2021 Volunteer Fire Assistance Phase 1 Grant Submitted to DNR \$2,999.78 plus shipping which is half of the regular cost for the equipment.

FC Hille ordered \$6,000 worth of foam and equipment.

- Small Business Association & Paycheck Protection Program Grants/Loans

Commissioner Riel brought up looking into eligibility for the district. AD Huitt will review and report at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Riel informed that to his understanding three counties are going back to phase to in Washington but Yakima isn't one of those.

FC Hille stated Ken Shipman and Chief Craig are working on a Radio/Dispatch presentation for the Commissioners Communication meeting on May 20th and both plan on attending the meeting.

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Chairman Ramynke requested an update on the Volunteer program. FC Hille informed the board we are losing people, but we still have dedicated Volunteers that pull shifts and put in the effort. We are doing everything we can to keep our program consistent and sleeper shifts are the part we're struggling with the most. Commissioner Riel mentioned and FD Hille agreed that advertising our recruit school a few months before it starts could really benefit our next hiring process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Recruit Volunteer James Scherschligt resigned March 26, 2021

FC Hille mentioned he did not have enough time to keep up with the requirements of an East Valley Volunteer Firefighter.

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

FC Hille spoke on the homeless camp fires that our district gets called to almost every day, raising concern that the potential for our Firefighters missing or being late to a residential fire of someone from our tax base is very high while addressing these preventable calls. Cpt Keith Shrank was informed by Yakima Clean Air that they "wouldn't attempt addressing the homeless issue due to being unable to defend ourselves". Captain Shrank also informed FC Hille YSO wouldn't go try to remove the homeless from the district's riverside because "there are too many of them, they won't leave". It was estimated that about 1500 homeless are living on our district's side of the Yakima River. Not only does it take time and manpower away from our tax payers, each time it also costs the district a \$57 dispatch fee. These calls could be avoided. There are 19 landowners on our side of the river and no one wants to deal with it. Selah dealt with a similar issue by discarding everything that was out and then the police went down everyday to cut down on the problems. The frequency of the fires is impacting our service levels. The board requested that FC Hille draft a letter to the Yakima County Commissioners to raise awareness and possibly take one or more of the County Commissioners down with a police escort to see the impact it's having first hand on our district. The next step would be a letter to the editor and see if anyone else could help solve the problem.

SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS

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

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Monday, April 30th 2021 at 4:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.



Chairman David Ramynke



Commissioner Les Riel



Vice-Chairman Ben St. Mary

Attest:



District Secretary Jenifer S Huitt



YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #4

CHIEF REPORT

April 12, 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION:

It is my opinion that one of the hallmarks of a good organization is open and free communication. In the months that I have been here, I have worked towards bringing that forward with the staff, and limiting the detrimental and cancerous negative talk that can depress the organization. I am not blind to when it happens, but I do believe that we are currently in an upswing with our personnel and working towards a consistent positive operation. There is enough stress in life without creating more at the place we spend the better part of our lives. I am hopeful that this trend continues to the future.

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION:

The delegation of duties within the career staff has been working out well. It seems that the personnel given tasks have taken them on with vigor and are taking pride in their areas of responsibility. I am extremely pleased with their response to this, and see an increase in ownership of the Department since this has started. Here are the staff assignments:

Facilities – Robillard SCBA/Breathing Air – McDonald Equipment – Andrienas
PPE – Neves EMS Equipment – Henle Radios/Pagers – Reeves Pub.Ed – Enger
Uniforms/Clothing – Reeves Vehicles/Maintenance – Erickson

Probationary Firefighter Rooks has been moved to “A” shift during Lieutenant McDonalds absence for his injury recovery.

With the input from the Executive Team, we have decided to bring on one summer help position this year. I have written a job description, and we will be advertising this in-house soon. The position will be from June – September and work 8:00 – 5:00 M-F. It was already budgeted for the year and will pay \$14.00/hr. This will be especially helpful now that we are down one career person and have moved our day-shift person to shift to cover.

Several volunteer firefighters as well as career staff have been progressing in their IFSAC testing and certification. All of our members doing practical testing have done very well, and most have done well on written exams. We are making good progress.

I am very concerned about the volunteer force and low participation. I have instructed each Captain to contact their volunteers and talk with them about their participation.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

I have sent out a SWOT questionnaire to all members of EVFD as part of the strategic plan update. As soon as they have been returned, I will be meeting with the three shifts, as well as incorporating this into our June board "retreat". This will be the foundation of the update for the strategic plan. I am currently working on a revision of the mission statement and corresponding core values to go along with that. It will have input from all members as well.

FF Robillard has obtained quotes for crack sealing and striping of the Station 40 parking lot. It will be scheduled soon.

I have heard nothing about the sole-source ambulance issue. More to come.

The container was moved from Station 42 to the gravel area at Station 40. We will be painting it sometime this summer.

The Chaplaincy training has been scheduled for June 17th. It will be held at Station 40. I am hopeful for a good turnout from the Yakima County fire departments.

ONGOING EFFORTS...

- Policy & Procedure Book Revision
- IFSAC Testing
- Budget review and monitoring
- Daily matters

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the East Valley.

Dale E. Hille

Fire Chief