

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 12<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Admin Director Jenifer Huitt; at Station 40 were Fire Chief Dale Hille and District Secretary Katelynn Hogan. Commissioner Ben St. Mary had an excused absence.

Chairman Ramynke called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as circulated. Seconded and carried.

**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 noted no public attended the meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**
  - July 7<sup>th</sup> Payroll
- b. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
  - June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. **CLAIMS REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL**

Claims Requests Fire	\$ 29,722.45
Claims Requests EMS	\$ 1,598.63
<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>\$ 31,321.08</b>
- d. **CORRESPONDENCE**
  - Brian Snure OPMA Guidance Update
- 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**

FC Hille was contacted by Rick Peterson the developer of Volterra. He stated they're meeting on Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Peterson has already started to push to have narrow roads for golf cart access similar to KB winery by the gorge per FC Hille. He stated he is not comfortable with narrow roads due to the fact that you have to pack people up and down the hills on stretchers. Also, any fire situations requires an excess amount of hose line being laid which isn't time efficient in emergency situations. FC Hille met with the Fire Marshall Chris Pedersen on Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup> to speak with her about the project. FC Hille stated Rick Peterson spoke on sprinkling the units which was confirmed as a good idea but doesn't make up for the narrow roads. Commissioner Riel stated we have to be able to get the engine to the patient. FC Hille worried about the access points because Rick Peterson stated he doesn't want to build switch back roads for better access. Chairman Ramynke brought up possibly having an initial consultation with Snure Law before meeting with Rick Peterson to identify where we stand on the matter.

**NEW BUSINESS**

FC Hille spoke with Yakima Chief Markham about the rumor of an RFA happening or the possibly of annexing the Terrace Heights area. Per FC Hille the RFA has been pulled off the table by the city manager because the Union wouldn't support it. FC Hille then asked Chief Markham about annexation who stated he "hadn't heard anything but when the new corridors go over the river, the growth management boundary goes up to 57<sup>th</sup> street which would be pretty attractive".

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

FC Hille has his concern for the need to pay attention to this issue even if it isn't going to happen for a few years. FC Hille advised there are some businesses in the Terrace Heights area that are interested in annexation because they potentially would be saving money on taxes because they would go to a class 3 district. FC Hille also mentioned the college would like it because they would have bus services available. Commissioner Riel asked for clarification on what the city of Yakima's class is. FC Hille stated he asked Chief Markham what their classification level was and he stated they were down to a class level of 3. FC Hille stated that if annexation were to happen Yakima Fire would take over Station 42 and according to the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) document they would be able to keep some of the equipment as well. FC Hille wanted clarification of whether or not businesses have any voting power in matters like this? Commissioner Riel stated he does not believe business has any sort of rights when it comes to voting, he believes it's all based on the community's population of voters. Commissioner Riel stated Yakima will not provide the Utilities to Terrace Heights that will still be under the control of Terrace Heights water and sewer. FC Hille informed that we would not be supporting annexation to Yakima Fire Chief Markham. FC Markham told FC Hille our Fire district can't campaign against it but the Union could. FC Hille stated the Unions share the same number so he doesn't think our union would take on their union. FC Hille expressed the need to increase our standing with the community more than we already have. As well as trying to do our due diligence to get ahead of this. FC Hille stated it may be a good idea to contact Snure Law Group to help get ahead of this issue. FC Hille brought up Dave Leach being a really good ally when it comes to annexation issues. FC Hille informed the whole reason of meeting with Chief Markham was to be aware of what was going on currently so the district isn't blindsided by a voting ballot that includes this issue one day because people wouldn't understand and could possibly interpret it as a benefit instead of what it really is. FC Hille would like to remind the community what services we offer. He clarified that it wouldn't be campaigning against this issue just informing of the current benefit. Chairman Ramynke stated he knows Dave Leach very well and is more than happy to come to meet with him and FC Hille to discuss this issue. The board and FC Hille agreed.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Riel had a conference call Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> at noon to discuss the health care and financing reports. Our numbers for billing, budget and health care look good. Our Health care budget is at 93.9% and the experience rate is 96.2. Commissioner Riel stated we were looking at a zero percent increase for 2022 if it gets any better, they may consider another premium holiday discount like the district had this year in 2021. Commissioner Riel stated the committee is trying to do a breakfast luncheon for the next meeting. Commissioner Riel also gave his report for the education committee which was approved.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Promotion of Volunteer Probationary Firefighter Jay Cruz to Firefighter effective June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Promotion of Volunteer Probationary Firefighter Travis Young to Firefighter effective June 25<sup>th</sup>

FC Hille elaborated that two probationary Firefighters have completed all their requirements to move from probationary status to Firefighter which includes completing their Firefighter one: Hazardous material and operations. FC Hille hopes in August when the annual picnic happens there will be an opportunity to have members' spouses come and pin them to honor their promotion.

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
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FC Hille stated the potato feed Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> is hosted by a few women of the community. They received donations for the supplies and will be awarding plaques to the Police and Fire Department as well.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Request for Leave of Absence – Hogan

FC Hille Stated that Secretary Hogan has taken some time off to move into her home to get settled. Two of those days around 18 hours are going to be unpaid time and according to policy its mandatory to get approval from the board. FC Hille stated she just didn't have enough vacation time set up to cover it all. FC Hille and commissioners gave their approval.

Commissioner Ramynke spoke on reverting back to in person meetings. Commissioner Riel stated his interest in still offering the zoom option for those that can't or feel more comfortable using zoom instead. The Board agreed to start doing in person meetings starting July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Commissioner Ramynke inquired about the issue of law enforcement changing their requirements for response. FC Hille stated he spoke with Moxee PD and Yakima County Sheriffs Office whom both stated if you call, we will come. The interaction and amount of time they stay on scene is what may change. FC Hille stated he just wants law enforcement there incase things go sideways because Firefighters aren't issued guns.

FC Hille stated we are hoping to have tender 42 back by next week, it had a bad gear box but there were going to address any and all issues it had while it was getting serviced.

FC Hille stated we still have someone interested in the Rescue that's for sale. The interested party like the price because of how inflated used cars are in our economy right now.

FC Hille stated he is very thankful for our Volunteers who responded to our large fire that happened over the weekend. There were a few moments where the fire almost went up and over the hill but thanks to our Volunteers; Volunteer Firefighter Hoon, Taylor, Strunk, and Young. They had it handled.

FC Hille also stated he's working with Captain Lenseigne on the hiring list to update it.

AD Huitt asked to clarify if we are opening our training room to the public. The board came to an agreement that rooms are available for use but there are parameters that the renter has to follow. As well as it not having to take extra time and efforts to enforce these rules.

Commissioner Ramynke stated Monday July 26<sup>th</sup> he will be traveling and won't be able to attend that Regular BOC meeting.

**SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS**

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

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING** – Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 4:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Riel made a motion to adjourn. There being no other business Chairman Ramynke adjourned the meeting at 4:47 pm.

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Chairman David Ramynke

  
Commissioner Les Riel

  
Vice-Chairman Ben St. Mary

Attest:

  
District Secretary Katelynn M Hogan