

YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
May 30th, 2023

The meeting convened at 3:00 pm at East Valley Fire Station 40. Those present at Station 40 were, Chairman Ben St. Mary, Commissioner Les Riel, Commissioner David Ramynke, Fire Chief Dale Hille, Deputy Fire Chief Ray Lamoureux and District Secretary Katelynn Hogan.

Chairman St. Mary called the meeting to order at 1500.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioners St. Mary lead in the pledge of allegiance.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

FC Hille opened general discussion by explaining the overtime standard per CBA and policies with minimum staffing at 4; meaning 2 people at each station with one spot open to move people around. OT during 2022 was allowed for scheduled vacations but had to be by like rank. For 2023, with a Deputy Chief now being involved that the department would tighten OT while working with the same budget as the year before. Commissioner Ramynke stated that if the department wants to be able to improve services and have a 3-man and 2-man engine crew then they need to figure how to be the most fiscally responsible. FC Hille suggested the department also compare wages with other departments their size and similar call volume while Commissioner Riel suggested due to City of Yakima recently looking into laying off 12 firefighter positions at station 92 due to budget cuts, they would not be an accurate comparison. FC Hille explained to the board that the line crew is concerned about their safety on calls and the burn out they are experiencing due to staffing issues and there being no OT available. In September the department will find out the outcome of the Safer Grant and if they can hire more firefighters to help with filling the 3 and 2-man staffing issue. While the NFPA standard is a 4-man crew, FC Hille wants to revisit the fire reserve in 1 year to determine what they can or will do with the Safer Grant if given. The department would like to strictly stick to the staffing they decide and only offer OT when minimum staffing is not met. Commissioner Riel also expressed to the board that the OT should ideally be available when absolutely needed. Such as during large brush or structure fires where we need the man power. With the upcoming pancake feed, the board has decided to leave the decision of offering OT up to FC Hille.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business Commissioner Riel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:17. Commissioner St. Mary seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:17



Chairman Ben St. Mary




Vice-Chairman Les Riel

Excused Absence

Commissioner David Ramynke

Attest:



District Secretary Katelynn Hogan