September 11, 2024 *Prescott, WA*

MINUTES OF MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Walla Walla North County Fire District Commissioner’s meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Steve Hoffmann.

**PRESENT:**

Commissioners Steve Hoffmann(D3), Kevin Chabre (D3), Preston Brock (D1), Dave Brock (D1), Bob Beckman(D7), Eric Cochran (D7), Pat Nettleton (D7), Chief Ruffcorn and Secretary Sara Winona(D3/D7), Kathy Brock (D1)

\*Quorum met

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

* Prescott City Wide Celebration by Dave Brock

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

* Copies of the June, July, and August Minutes were given in hard and digital copies for review. Kevin moved to accept June, July, and August Minutes as is. Dave seconded the motions.

**CHIEFS REPORT:**

* Has been busy. Number of calls up for this time of year. Pleased with the fair/good responses from volunteers. Very pleased with response of farmers with cat & disk to all fires.
* Working with Corps of Engineers to get combo locks in gates in our districts. Response time was delayed at recent fire at Sonnenburg as there was no access to fire besides through locked gate.
* Construction on Lower Waitsburg all winter. We need to be aware of passibility.
* Plan to work on cosmetic vehicle problems after fire season. Discussion of list/triage for winter work so others can help.
* DNR has trucks available for free, but we would never own them. Jim is planning to look at them to make sure they are a good fit for our program. They also have grants to pay for batteries and tires, etc. He is looking for a trailer as well to haul DNR dozer.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* Prescott City Wide July 4th Celebration: Dave asked about commissioners’ thoughts on participating in celebration planned for July 4, 2025, with fire trucks and some games. Would be a great opportunity to interact with the public and even recruit volunteers. All commissioners agreed and liked the idea.
* Merger Vs. RFA: See attached info for details. Discussion of differences between merger and RFA. Attorney Snure recommends RFA for our situation. Steve will bring a list of landowners of all 3 districts for next meeting to review. Kevin moved that WWNCFD move forward with RFA, Eric seconded the motion. A special meeting at Pocketinet in Walla Walla will be scheduled for all commissioners to meet virtually with Snure and move forward this fall.
* Payroll: payroll will no longer be done by the county as of 12/31/24. Discussion on other possibilities. Sara & Kathy are unable to do due to other jobs and amount of time/knowledge involved in payroll. Eric moved that we look into Patton & Associates. Kevin seconded the motion. Sara will contact and present costs next month.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

* Fred Hair funeral service on Saturday 9/14, commissioners moved to send flowers from department. Sara will arrange.
* Alcohol at banquet: Discussion and question of having alcohol at dinner banquet. If beer was by donation to Lion’s Hall, can it be served? We can keep a crew to respond to calls that is not drinking. Other districts do similar thing in Walla Walla County. Commissioners discussed and as long as fire department is not providing or paying for alcohol that it is okay.
* EMT Student: Rem McBride is a young volunteer who has signed up to do EMT course this fall. The district agrees to pay for his class and book as long as he promises to continue to serve for 1 year after certification. Class costs will be greatly reduced this year as it is no longer through the community college and will be privately done at College Place Fire Department. All commissioners and chief agree that Rem will be a great asset to depart in EMS and to pay costs. The majority of book cost will be reimbursed by EMS council as well. Eric moved to pay for class and book, Pat seconded. All in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

* There being no further business or comments Eric moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 AM, Dave seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Winona, Secretary

Steve Hoffmann, Chairman