November 13, 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), Jeff Buley (D3), Preston Brock (D1), Dave Brock (D1), Brent Tompkins (D1), Bob Beckman(D7), Eric Cochran (D7), Pat Nettleton (D7), Chief Ruffcorn, and Secretaries Sara Winona(D3/D7), Kathy Brock (D1) and guest Brian Snure via phone

\*Quorum met

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

* None

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

* Copies of the October 2024 Minutes were given in hard and digital copies for review. Eric moved to accept minutes as is. Pat seconded the motion.

**CHIEFS REPORT:**

* Radios have been terrible. Large areas are dead zones, unable to make out words. Have passed concerns onto WESCOM.
* Trucks go in Jan/Feb for auto body repair, 3 different trucks will rotate in and out.
* Neighboring districts discussing charging for lift assists. Discussion that we don’t have enough to justify time and energy collecting money.
* Working on DNR grants – Grants for radios, front monitors. Etc. Checking DNR website frequently.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* Commissioner Handbook Review: - Finished reviewing book. All commissioners have hard copy available for future references.
* SOP Review/Creation: tabled.
* RFA Updates: Conference Call with lawyer Brian Snure regarding RFA questions during meeting.
  + Telephone conference with Snure: Discussion of RFA options for vote or petition. We discovered that an RFA must go to the voters.
  + If we complete RFA by October 1, 2025, can set 2026 rates. Snure advised we can run it in Feb and if it fails, we can re-advertise and do again. (can run RFA vote Feb, April, Aug, or Nov). Commissioners are thinking of trying for April and have stuff ready by Feb.
  + RFA can have a 5-member commissioner board. We can change and adjust down gradually. We could also create commissioner districts, that is complicated and not recommended.
  + Max tax rate is $1 if no FT employee, Max rate with FT employee is $1.50 \*Check about benefits for FT employee in WA and rules for that.
  + After we start can dissolve old district by vote
  + We need to have an RFA planning committee group to plan and organize public meetings. Will need separate agenda for meetings Flyers, Education to public. Also

**OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

* + Each district makes a joint resolution to move forward.
  + Create a narrative for why we are doing this.
  + Steve will get history of other levy lift amounts. No commissioners can recall asking for $ from voters. Will work on a worksheet of loss to D3, gain to D1 and D7 at the different rates

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* D1 Quit Claim deed for land at Clyde Station. Quick discussion of conversation with title company and lawyers regarding the mismarking of land. We lose about 50 feet of land in this deed, but it is going back to original deed description. The loss does not affect the department’s function or land. Kevin moved that we support D1 in signing this agreement, Eric seconded. All in favor.
* 2025 Budget presented and discussed. Kevin moved to accept the general budget of $355,744.00 and EMS budget of $65,028.00 Preston seconded the motion. All in favor.
* Discussion of payroll for 2025: Sara presented the board with 3 different options of getting payroll done, including online systems, quick books, and costs from local accountant. Having a local professional who also deals with other small districts was important to board. Eric moved to have Patton & Associates do payroll for us. Pat seconded the motion. All if favor.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

* Kathy had a catalog of coats to look at for banquet: commissioner discussed type and style they liked. She will get some samples. Commissioners want no waist elastic, no zip out liners, something light and water resistant.
* The banquet is set for March 8, training dates set similar to last year. Starting Jan 7, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

* There being no further business or comments meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Winona, Secretary

Steve Hoffmann, Chairman