

# WALLA WALLA COUNTY F.P.D. NO. 6

656 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Touchet, WA 99360

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2023

The annual public budget meeting and regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm for the public budget portion of the meeting at Station 61. Commissioners Darren Goble, Burl Hanson and Richard Easton were in attendance, as well as Chief LeLand Weber, Assistant Chief Rusty Waite and Captain Kevin Kromm.

The budget for 2024 was discussed and the budget figures were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Easton to approve the budget for 2024, which was seconded by Commissioner Hanson. Resolution 2023-15 to approve the budget was signed. The following is a breakdown of the budget that was approved: **Fire** - Regular Pay (11) \$50,000; Other Benefits (21) \$8,000; Social Security (21.0002) \$3,555; Uniforms & Clothing (22) \$20,000; Office & Operating Supplies (31) \$5,000; Fuel (32) \$10,000; Small Tools & Minor Equipment (35) \$8,000; Professional Services (41) \$10,000; Communications (42) \$1,500; Advertising (44) \$777; Insurance (46) \$17,000; Utility Services (47) \$3,500; Repairs & Maintenance (48) \$40,000; Miscellaneous (49) \$9,347; Intergovernmental Services (51) \$1,000; Intergovernmental Payments (52) \$1,000; Construction of Capital Assets (65) \$77,000. **EMS** - Regular Pay (11) \$20,000; Social Security (21.0002) \$1,300; Uniforms & Clothing (22) \$3,000; Office & Operating Supplies (31) \$3,000; Fuel (32) \$5,000; Small Tools & Minor Equipment (34) \$5,000; Professional Services (41) \$4,000; Communications (42) \$1,250; Insurance (46) \$8,000; Utility Services (47) \$1,500; Repairs & Maintenance (48) \$5,000; Miscellaneous (49) \$2,000; Intergovernmental Services (51) \$500; Intergovernmental Payments (52) \$500; Construction of Capital Assets (65) \$22,650.

With the public budget meeting finished, the regular meeting started at 7:00 pm. There was no mail to review. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Commissioner Hanson, which was seconded by Commissioner Easton and unanimously approved.

The minutes, from the October 10, 2023, regular meeting were read. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Hanson, seconded by Commissioner Easton, and unanimously approved. Vouchers 2023312 through 2023351 for a total of \$16,583.57 were reviewed. Vouchers 2023312 through 202342 were for wages in the amount of \$4,494.00. Vouchers 2023343 through 2023351 were for monthly bills in the amount of \$12,089.57. A motion to pay the vouchers was made by Commissioner Hanson, seconded by Commissioner Easton, and unanimously approved. The Financial Statement for the month of September 2023 showed a total of \$428,609.54 available. The Reserve Cash Account had a balance of \$757,611.13.

Resolution 2023-15 to reinvest \$257,611.00 for one month was reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Hanson to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Easton, and unanimously approved.

There were no runs for the month of October that needed to be discussed.

Brian Sewell talked to an architect/engineer regarding the rehab of Frenchtown into a new station for Lowden. The District is putting together an RFQ, so that the rehab project can start moving ahead. The RFQ will be advertised in the Waitsburg Times, which is a paper of record. The District would like to keep the original footprint of the building. It was stated that the District may have to update to new energy codes, per State and County standards. The District will begin with a site survey.

Chief Weber told the Board that Alex Seely had approached him and was wanting to come back on the Department. It was decided that his return would be discussed at a later date. LeLand will talk to Alex about the decision that was made.

It was stated that Patti Loney has officially retired from the Department.

Assistant Chief Rusty Waite told the Board that he was going to get the challenge coin engraved that he had purchased last month and that Captain Kevin Kromm was going to make arrangements to set up a time to present the coin to former volunteer Les Doering before he and his family move out of the District, as a show of appreciation for his service to the District.

The batteries for the Homatro jaws need to be replaced, so they will need to be ordered.

The new washing machine that was purchased runs on 110v and the service to the area where the new washer will go is wired in at 220v. As an electrician will need to be contacted, it was decided to contact Hayes Electric to change from 220v to 110v, so that the new washer can be used.

There was a discussion regarding interest in a gurney (Wilderness Rescue Cot) with a single bicycle wheel on one end that would facilitate rescue in wildland areas.

The new axes and shovels have arrived and have been put in the trucks.

It was noted that Dean has the kit for 3611 to repair the water leak. It was also stated that a new tarp is being made.

The charger on the tender has been replaced with a 24v charger and it seems to be working fine now.

Pictures will be taken of the surplus equipment, so that Rusty can get it listed online.

There will be an OTEP meeting here on Thursday – documentation is the subject of the class. It was stated that LeighAnne Sauve' needs to renew her EMR license with the state. First aid/CPR will be held December 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Rusty told the Board that he had purchased a year's subscription to godaddy.com for \$10, but he found that WIX wouldn't accept that. He said that he would get a refund from godaddy.com. He stated that a year's subscription to WIX was \$200, plus tax to host the website.

The Firefighter Recognition Policy that the District had gotten from Snure Law was reviewed. It will allow the Board of Commissioners to give money to the Fire Association, so that they can put on an annual dinner to recognize the volunteers and express their appreciation for the time they take to serve the Department and the community of Touchet. Commissioner Easton made a motion to approve the new policy, which was seconded by Commissioner Hanson with all in favor.

Rusty gave the Board a synopsis of the Chief's meeting that he had attended. He stated that the county Natural Resources Conservation Service representative, Annie Byerley was there. She stated that if District 6 wanted fire breaks through CRP ground that it would be fine and that the farmer would not get docked. He also stated that Liz Jessee and Annie are trying to implement a Fire Ready program for Walla Walla County and that they would give homeowners guidance on what to do. He also told the Board that Liz Jessee would be retiring from Emergency Management at the end of the year.

There was a discussion on the radio service in the area. Rusty stated that Esther Click, the WESCOM manager, has a map that says the county has 93% coverage. He told the Board that if there is an issue with the District's coverage, WESCOM needs the time and date of the occurrence and the location. Esther Click will need to be contacted with that information.

Bob Clendaniels has a field fire training program that the DNR will be funding, and it will be available to District 6 at no charge.

Rusty told the Board that MCAB was assigning a tach channel in initial dispatch and also taking Life Flight off the main channel. There was an update to the radio system that was done for the old system. Since there are problems with the current system, the prime directive is to figure out what exactly the problems are, then figure out what direction to go from there.

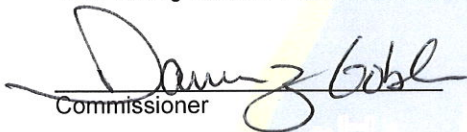
There is an active shooter team for the county that is being put together. District 6 will try to be part of that with rescue. Walla Walla County is the first to do an active shooter program. District 6 will need to order helmets, along with vests.

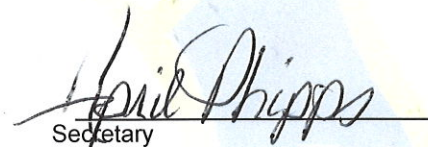
The City of Walla Walla is going back to the old number system.

There will be a Tri-County chief's meeting held at Station 41 at 9:00 this Saturday.

The new dispatch center will be at the airport, hopefully by the end of next year. The backup dispatch center is to be at the police station.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

  
Commissioner

  
Secretary

9/11  
NEVER FORGET