

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

West Metro Fire Protection District
Civil Service Committee Meeting
June 9, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District Civil Service Committee was called to order by President Peggy Valdez at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was held in accordance with the applicable statutes of the state of Colorado, at West Metro Fire Protection District's Administrative Office Building, at 433 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado, and available remotely via Zoom.

II. ROLL CALL

President Peggy Valdez	Present
Vice President Susan Emsbo	Present
Member Dick Igel	Present
Member Leo Johnson	Present
Member Jim Roos	Present
Member Danny Turney	Absent - Excused
Board Liaison Don Sherman	Present

Also present were Fire Chief Don Lombardi; Division Chief Doug Hutchinson (remotely via Zoom); and, Ms. Jennifer Wheaton as recording secretary.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Roos and seconded by Dick Igel to accept the agenda for the regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District Civil Service Committee of June 9, 2022, as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

V. REVIEW OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Susan Emsbo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Civil Service Committee dated May 12, 2022 as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried. After the vote, there was discussion about clarifying the format of one of the topics under the report of the fire chief to improve readability. It was moved by Susan Emsbo and seconded by

Leo Johnson to clear the motion to approve the minutes. It was moved by Susan Emsbo and seconded by Leo Johnson to approve the minutes as amended to reformat the contents in the report of the fire chief to improve readability. The motion was voted upon and carried.

VI. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF – Fire Chief Don Lombardi

The accreditation site visit concluded in late May. The accreditation peer review team made nine recommendations for improvement which are expected to be achievable. Other feedback from the peer team included best practices such as the strategic planning teams and the collaboration with the union, as well as the speakers bureau and self-care leave. The hearing before the Commission on Fire Accreditation International will be held on August 16, 2022 at 9:55 a.m. Chief Lombardi encouraged the Civil Service Committee members to attend this important occasion at the Weston at Denver International Airport.

The recruit academy 22-01 had their graduation ceremony last night at Dakota Ridge High School. The event was well attended. Tri Lakes-Monument, Castle Rock, and Arvada Fire recruits were among the graduates from this recruit academy.

Another successful Camp Ember occurred last weekend. West Metro's Lakota Beckhorn and Arvada's Brook Elder, with the support from the Training Center staff, did a terrific job in operating the camp for the young women ages 16-18 who attended the camp with aspirations to learn about a career in the fire service.

Budget season is getting started. Chief Lombardi met with Finance Director Bruk Mulaw and Deputy Chief of Administration Jeremy Metz earlier today for a kickoff meeting to begin early planning. As an example of the increased costs that are affecting every area of the organization, Chief Lombardi discussed the rising costs of fuel prices and how this considerable increase impacts the budget for the organization. State legislative decisions on property taxes, union negotiations, and staffing considerations will all factor into the budget in 2023.

The City of Lakewood has cancelled their public fireworks show in anticipation of potential for high fire danger in the area in the coming weeks.

VII. REPORT OF THE TRAINING CHIEF – Division Chief Hutchinson

The firefighter recruit academy graduation occurred last night. There are nine new firefighters who will be in the stations by the 19th of June. The next academy will begin August 1, 2022 with up to 32 West Metro personnel. Due to the size, this upcoming academy will be a West Metro only academy.

The training sessions that have occurred at the Stevinson property at 6th and Indiana are near completion. The training was an excellent opportunity for West Metro. The Driver Operator Pumper class concluded with nine students who are now on their way to becoming relief drivers and acting engineers of fire engines. In collaboration with USAR,

the structural collapse specialist class at the Training Center has concluded. Planning has begun for a full-scale active threat scenario that will occur in 2023. Captain Rick Ihnken is in the process of developing ongoing training and educational programming for handling emergencies involving lithium-ion batteries. Multicompany Drills begin again next month through the remainder of the summer with class A fire training. The training will incorporate the use of thermal imaging cameras.

VIII. REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL – Cathy Tallerico, Esq.

Chief Lombardi provided the legal update to the Committee on the Bourne matter. Documents pertaining to the matter have been served. The attorneys are handling the details at this time. Future updates will be given as more information becomes available.

IX. REPORT OF BOARD LIAISON – Don Sherman

Mr. Sherman reported on the May 24, 2022 board meeting. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2022.

X. REPORT OF THE UNION – Division Chief Doug Hutchinson

The union expressed their appreciation for those involved in orchestrating Camp Ember.

Senator Michael Bennett of Colorado introduced a bill called the Public Safety Officer Health Improvement Act on May 19, 2022. This act is a mechanism for retired firefighters to receive a break on healthcare premiums between the time of retirement until the age of 65 when the retiree becomes Medicare eligible. Up to a \$4,800 tax credit would be applied toward healthcare premium expenses.

XI. REPORT OF THE RCS SUBCOMMITTEE – Division Chief Doug Hutchinson

The new hire process continues to move forward with the background investigations underway. Investigators are currently completing background checks on the top 75 candidates in hopes of achieving the goal of 32 recruits for the August 1, 2022 academy.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORT – Division Chief Doug Hutchinson

A. Budget Review

Chief Hutchinson reviewed the 2022 year-to-date budget.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2022 Lieutenant Promotional Exam

A kickoff meeting with the SMEs, Chief Hutchinson, CPS-HR representatives, and Ms. Valdez will occur on June 16. This meeting will help to establish the framework for the testing process, and to lay out a timeline for future meetings.

B. New Civil Service Committee Member Search Process

The search process for new Civil Service Committee members is underway. Interviews are scheduled for July 9, 2022 and will be held at the administrative offices in the board room. At present, there is one applicant for the two vacant positions. Notices were placed in the Denver Post on May 29 and June 5, as well as YourHub for two consecutive weeks. The West Metro website, Facebook, and NextDoor also have the advertisement for the position posted. The deadline to receive applications is on June 17, 2022.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 3rd Grade Firefighter Exam (21-02)

1. Notice

MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Jim Roos to approve and post the notice of the 2022 3rd Grade Firefighter Promotional Exam (21-02) on June 9, 2022 as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

2. Reading List

MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Dick Igel to approve and post the reading list of the 2022 3rd Grade Firefighter Promotional Exam (21-02) on June 9, 2022 as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

B. Certify the Top Three Names from the Eligibility Register for the Rank of Lieutenant.

MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Susan Emsbo to certify the top three names from the eligibility register for the rank of lieutenant (T. Hecox, E. Gaffrey, and C. Trost). The motion was voted upon and carried.

XV. OTHER MATTERS

Dick Igel thanked the Committee for their well wishes and the Get-Well card that was sent to him last month.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to be presented it was moved by Susan Emsbo and seconded by Leo Johnson to adjourn the regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District Civil Service Committee. The motion was voted upon and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Recording Secretary: /s/ Jennifer Wheaton
/s/ Peggy Valdez