

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

West Metro Fire Protection District
Civil Service Committee Meeting
June 13, 2023

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 Teams.

II. ROLL CALL

President Peggy Valdez	Present
Vice President Susan Emsbo	Absent - Excused
Member Kim Brewer	Present
Member Christina Cosentini	Absent - Excused
Member Christopher Holm	Present
Member Leo Johnson	Present
Member Jim Roos	Present – Remotely Via Teams
Member Danny Turney	Absent - Excused
Board Liaison Jerry Cassel	Present

Also present were Fire Chief Don Lombardi; Division Chief Doug Hutchinson; Lieutenant Jon Beattie representing IAFF Local 1309 Remotely via Teams; and, Ms. Jennifer Wheaton as recording secretary.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Kim Brewer to accept the agenda for the regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District Civil Service Committee of June 13, 2023, as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

V. REVIEW OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Kim Brewer and seconded by Chris Holm to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Civil Service Committee dated May 9, 2023 as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

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

The 2024 budget development process has begun. Chief Lombardi noted that the Colorado Proposition HH, the Property Tax and Revenue Change Measure that is anticipated to be on the ballot in the fall, could negatively impact revenues for the District. This uncertainty makes the budget planning process very challenging for the District. Chief Lombardi has prepared budget authors to plan accordingly for the potential of this ballot measure passing.

Camp Ember had another successful year with 16 teenaged girls completing the four-day, three-night immersive fire-based camp. West Metro Firefighter Lakota Beckhorn, along with other female firefighters from West Metro, Arvada, South Metro, and Aurora fire agencies, provided the training and leadership for the camp. Firefighter Beckhorn will present to the Civil Service Committee on this year's Camp Ember at a later date.

Chief Lombardi updated the Civil Service Committee on the progress of the RCS Committee and their continued evaluation of the hiring process. Once the RCS Committee research is complete and a formal report has been given to Chief Lombardi, he will then make a recommendation to the Civil Service Committee regarding any changes or modifications to the West Metro hiring process.

President Valdez congratulated Chief Lombardi for receiving the Russell Sanders Lifetime Achievement Award, which is the highest honor given by the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association.

VII. REPORT OF THE TRAINING CHIEF – Division Chief Hutchinson

The 2023-01 recruits will graduate from the West Metro Firefighter Academy on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Dakota Ridge High School at 4:00 p.m. Chief Hutchinson encouraged the Civil Service Committee members to attend.

Captain Wenger continues to teach the Golden Volunteer Fire Academy which is currently at the halfway point. The program is going well.

The West Metro Training Calendar is packed with trainings in 2023. In the near future, a driver operator pumper class is scheduled. This program is a prerequisite for the Engineer Promotional Exam as well as anyone desiring to be considered an acting engineer.

Chief Hutchinson has arranged for the West Metro civilian employees to attend the leadership training, Insights with Denver University instructor, Kerry Plemmons.

The fall recruit academy will begin in August. A notable training for the recruits selected for this class will be the workplace respect and resiliency training. This valuable training is also provided to civilian staff hired in recent months.

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

None.

IX. REPORT OF BOARD LIAISON – Board President Jerry Cassel

Mr. Jerry Cassel reported on the May 16, 2023 board meeting. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2023.

X. REPORT OF THE UNION – Lieutenant Jon Beattie

Lieutenant Beattie congratulated Chief Lombardi on the Russell Sanders Lifetime Achievement award from the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association.

Lieutenant Beattie also described some of the events of Camp Ember, including the special efforts taking by the Training Division staff, overcoming challenges to ensure a successful camp experience for the campers, and noted the pride and ownership associated with this important program that is supported in various ways by all employees at West Metro.

West Metro will host the 2nd Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in honor of Flag Day on June 14 at the Training Center at 7:00 p.m. CSC members are invited to attend and be a part of this ceremony and to bring any U.S. flags no longer suitable for use to the ceremony to be properly retired. Lieutenant Beattie thanked Lieutenant Chris Trost for organizing this ceremony and turning it into an annual event.

The West Metro Relay Team that participated in the 2023 Colfax Marathon had a successful event, coming in second in the Public Safety Division and winning \$3,000 for the Colorado Professional Fire Fighters Foundation.

The Annual CPFF conference will occur in late June 2023. Discussions surrounding property taxes and the upcoming election are anticipated.

The 20th Annual CPFFF Golf Tournament will occur at Arrowhead Golf Course. Over the 20 years of holding this tournament, the funds raised for the CPFFF have totaled over one million dollars.

XI. REPORT OF THE RCS COMMITTEE – Lieutenant Jon Beattie

The next RCS Committee meeting will occur later this week. Lieutenant Beattie will update the CSC on this meeting at the July 11, 2023 CSC meeting.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORT – Division Chief Doug Hutchinson

A. Budget Review

Chief Hutchinson reviewed the 2023 year-to-date budget.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2023 Engineer Promotional Exam

The subject matter experts (SMEs) for this promotional exam have been selected. Chief Hutchinson noted the exemplary quality of SMEs for this exam and is excited to get the exam process started.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2023 3rd Grade Firefighter Promotional Exam (22-02)

1. Notice
2. Reading List

The Committee members reviewed the notice and the reading list for the 2023 3rd Grade Firefighter Promotional Exam.

MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Kim Brewer to approve and post the notice and reading list for the 2023 3rd Grade Firefighter Promotional Exam (22-02), effective June 13, 2023. The motion was voted upon and carried.

XV. OTHER MATTERS

None.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to be presented it was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Chris Holm 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 6:39 p.m.

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