

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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West Metro Fire Protection District  
Civil Service Committee Meeting  
September 8, 2022

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District Civil Service Committee was called to order by Acting President Danny Turney 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	Absent - Excused
Vice President Susan Emsbo	Absent - Excused
Member Kim Brewer	Present
Member Christina Cosentini	Present
Member Christopher Holm	Absent - Excused
Member Leo Johnson	Present
Member Jim Roos	Present
Member Danny Turney	Present
Board Liaison Don Sherman	Present

Also present were Fire Chief Don Lombardi; Division Chief Doug Hutchinson; Lieutenant Jon Beattie, representing IAFF Local 1309; 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 Jim Roos to accept the agenda for the regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District Civil Service Committee of September 8, 2022, as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.**

### V. REVIEW OF MINUTES

**MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Kim Brewer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Civil Service Committee dated August 9, 2022 as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.**

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

Funeral services were held for former Board Member and Civil Service Committee Member Fred Wilhoft. The West Metro honor guard participated in the services to honor Mr. Wilhoft's life and service to West Metro over the course of many years.

The 2023 budget preparation is in the final stages and on track to submit the preliminary budget to the board by October 15. Chief Lombardi will present the 2023 budget to the board at the October board meeting.

Revenues are projected to be stable in 2023. Since this is not a valuation year, property tax revenue is expected to be similar to 2022, EMS revenue is expected to improve with the Medicaid reimbursement program, and the SAFER grant for staffing is projected to provide funding for 21 staff members for a period of three years.

**VII. REPORT OF THE TRAINING CHIEF – Division Chief Hutchinson**

The 22-02 recruit academy is underway and doing well. The class is down from 31 to 30 recruits after losing one recruit in August.

Active threat training, in coordination with local law enforcement, is in progress which will continue late into the fall.

Four West Metro firefighters attended a specialty training on lithium-ion batteries with FDNY.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fire Muster will occur on Saturday, September 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Chief Hutchinson encouraged all Committee members to attend.

Building Warriors, the program that delivers resiliency training to employees of the District, has recently begun to provide "house calls" to various stations throughout the District for staff in need. This service within the Building Warriors program has been valuable and has gained momentum in the last year.

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

None.

**IX. REPORT OF BOARD LIAISON – Secretary Don Sherman**

Mr. Sherman reported on the August 16, 2022 board meeting. The next board meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2022.

**X. REPORT OF THE UNION – Lieutenant Jon Beattie**

The MDA Fill the Boot Campaign to collect donations for the muscular dystrophy association occurred over Labor Day Weekend. The membership collections totaled \$75,000 for this worthwhile cause.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Firefighter Chili Cook-Off will be held September 30, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at McGregor Square in Downtown Denver. Proceeds go to the Colorado Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Convention occurred in Ottawa, Canada in August. Over 2,000 delegates were in attendance at this convention. Topics of the conference included cancer awareness, financial wellness, wildland urban interface, and behavioral health.

The IAFF is in the process of building a new Excellence Center in California. The original Excellence Center, located in Maryland, is a 64-bed residential treatment center to support firefighters through PTSD, substance abuse, and other types of behavioral health problems.

**XI. REPORT OF THE RCS SUBCOMMITTEE – Lieutenant Jon Beattie**

Lieutenant Beattie discussed some of the considerations for future recruitment messaging and the challenges associated with the hiring process. The current focus surrounds safety messaging on the steps West Metro takes to ensure the health and wellbeing of the firefighters throughout their careers.

Active background investigations are currently in progress for a 15-person academy planned in the spring 2023.

**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**

The written exam will occur on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Two CSC members will attend the written exam.

Mr. Sherman distributed a document with written guidance for the CSC members as a quick reference to outline their specific role on promotional testing days.

**B. 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Firefighter Promotional Exam (21-02)**

The written exam will be administered on September 27, 2022 at 8:00 a.m., followed by a practical skills exam. Two CSC members will be in attendance to observe this exam.

**XIV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Certify the Top Three Names from the Eligibility Register for the Rank of Assistant Chief and for the Rank of Captain

**MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Kim Brewer to certify the top three names from the eligibility register for the rank of assistant chief (T. Hopwood, K. Reichenbach, K. Grosse), and to certify the top two names from the eligibility register for the rank of captain (D. Fahrney, A. Giesick). The motion was voted upon and carried.**

**XV. OTHER MATTERS**

- A. Civil Service Committee Photos – Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
- B. Board and Civil Service Committee Holiday Party – Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at 240 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO

**XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: There being no further business to be presented it was moved by Jim Roos 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 6:47 p.m.

Recording Secretary: /s/s/ Jennifer Wheaton  
/s/ Danny Turney