

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

West Metro Fire Protection District
Civil Service Committee Meeting
March 14, 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 6:01 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	Present
Member Christopher Holm	Present
Member Leo Johnson	Present – Remotely Via Teams
Member Jim Roos	Present
Member Danny Turney	Absent - Excused
Board Liaison Don Sherman	Present

Also present were 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 Kim Brewer and seconded by Chris Cosentini to accept the agenda for the regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District Civil Service Committee of March 14, 2023, as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

V. REVIEW OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Jim Roos to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Civil Service Committee dated February 14, 2023 as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

VI. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF – Division Chief Doug Hutchinson

Chief Lombardi is attending US&R Strategic Group meetings in Washington D. C. this week. No report of the fire chief.

VII. REPORT OF THE TRAINING CHIEF – Division Chief Hutchinson

There are twenty-five recruits still remaining in the 23-01 academy, three recruits have resigned for personal reasons.

Wildland training is in progress. This refresher training allows all West Metro firefighters to remain Red Card certified. The Insights Training by Kerry Plemmons has concluded and was well received by those in attendance.

Camp Ember is coming up June 1-4, 2023. An observation date for the Civil Service Committee will be coordinated and announced soon.

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

None.

IX. REPORT OF BOARD LIAISON – Secretary Don Sherman

Mr. Don Sherman reported on the February 21, 2023 board meeting. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2023.

X. REPORT OF THE UNION – Lieutenant Jon Beattie

Lieutenant Beattie announced the passing of former West Metro Lieutenant Robert Laffler. Lieutenant Laffler retired in 2019 for medical reasons. Services are in the planning stages and are anticipated to occur in the month of April.

The annual St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on Saturday last week. The Local 1309 represented West Metro in the parade using an antique fire engine.

The Colorado Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony will take place on April 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lakewood Cultural Center.

The Local 1309 is now occupying office space in the Denver Fires' Event Center.

Three members attended the legislative conference in Washington D.C. last week. One emerging topic at the conference pertained to the complex group of synthetic chemicals called polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that have been found to be carcinogenic and have been found on firefighter bunker gear. Additionally, the Colorado Professional Firefighters have been working with Senator Bennett on the proposal of a bill to allow firefighters to qualify for tax credits related to health insurance in retirement. Lieutenant Beattie will update the Committee as more information becomes available.

XI. REPORT OF THE RCS COMMITTEE – Lieutenant Jon Beattie

The RCS Committee is meeting monthly between now and the next hiring process. This most recent meeting was attended by a number of candidates participating in the 2023 Assistant Chief Promotional Exam due to the topic of the written assignment pertaining to the hiring process. Discussions about the timing for the physical agility test (PAT) occurred, with a focus on the timing of the year in which the PAT is conducted. In recent years, the PAT was offered in the winter months and was interrupted by weather on several occasions. Suggestions were made to hold PAT dates throughout the year during predictably warmer months for potential applicants to test. In the coming weeks, representatives from Cobb County Fire Department will be coming to West Metro to discuss their practices after developing a new and innovative approach the hiring process.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORT – Division Chief Doug Hutchinson

A. Budget Review

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

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2023 Assistant Chief Promotional Exam

1. Ratify Scores and Establish Eligibility Register

MOTION: It was moved by Kim Brewer and seconded by Chris Cosentini to ratify the final scores of the 2023 Assistant Chief Promotional Exam, to post the results of the exam on March 14, 2023, and to establish the assistant chief eligibility register effective April 11, 2023 with an expiration date of April 10, 2025. The motion was voted upon and carried.

B. 2023 3rd Grade Firefighter Promotional Exam (22-01)

The written exam and practical evaluation will occur on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at the Training Center.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Certify the Top Name from the Eligibility Register for the Rank of Captain and the Top Three Names from the Eligibility Register for the Rank of Lieutenant

MOTION: It was moved by Leo Johnson and seconded by Chris Cosentini to certify the top name from the eligibility register for the rank of captain (A. Giesick) and to certify the top three names from the eligibility register for the rank of lieutenant (S. Modugno, R. Blackmer, R. Parker). The motion was voted upon and carried.

XV. OTHER MATTERS

Ms. Valdez opened a discussion about the timing of entering testing rooms during the promotional exam process in an effort to improve the coordination of CSC member entry for consistency in the testing experience for all candidates.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to be presented it was moved by Jim Roos and seconded by Kim Brewer 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 6:35 p.m.

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