

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

Commissioners: Commissioner de Mestre, Commissioner Dormaier, Commissioner Fennell, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Zimmerman

By Phone: Commissioner Evenhus

Guests: Ettore Castellente

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Andy Davidson, Battalion Chief Pete Rigelman, and Terri Woods

I. Called to Order: 2:00 pm.

II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: An Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisitions per RCW 42.30.110 (C) will be added at the end of the meeting for 10 minutes followed with a closed session for collective bargaining matters for an additional 10 minutes. No final decisions will be made.

III. Public Comments: None.

IV. Consent Agenda:

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The consent agenda items were approved.

V. Correspondence:

Chief Brett and the Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz met with the Broadview Firewise Chairperson and toured the Balsam Root Fire area. Members of the prevention team met with the Chelan County Fire Marshal to discuss the desire to close Horselake Road each year while the burn ban is in effect.

VI. Staff Reports:

Administration: The SharePoint project trackers for the RFA Plan, Strategic Plan, and Operations Plan are still in progress. Chief Brett discussed possible bond scenarios with Jim Nelson from DA Davidson. The results from the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau are expected soon. The decreased Malaga staffing may negatively impact their WSRB rating; the rating in the greater Wenatchee and East Wenatchee areas may improve.

VII. Committee Reports:

The Board discussed engaging with local government agencies by attending Board Meetings and reviewing the agendas for the three local cities, counties, Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, and RiverCom.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Facilities: Deputy Chief Brandon Kunz provided a facilities update.

- There are substantial roof leaks at Fire Station 17. Some repairs are planned this year. Bids for a new roof will be requested next year.
- The Station 13 memorial with an image of Commissioner Compton will be finished.
- The architects are designing a preliminary draft for the hangar and station at Pangborn.
- The estimate for the Capital Improvement Plan is higher than budgeted. The Commissioners asked Chief Brett to prioritize and negotiate to best meet the department's needs.

2. Apparatus:

- Grant County Fire District 3 has interest in purchasing Brush 6 and Brush 7 for a total of \$65,000. The Board discussed safety and liability concerns.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to declare Brush 6 and 7 as surplus and sell to Grant County Fire District 3. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The surplus and sales were approved.

- The purchase of a ¾ ton GMC Truck for use by the Deputy Chief of Logistics is included in the 2024 apparatus replacement schedule.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion approving the purchase of a ¾ ton GMC Truck. There was a second from Commissioner Fennell. The purchase was approved.

3. Aviation: The primary inspection for 1MR is complete. Revenues have exceeded budgeted expectations.
4. Personnel: Captain Terry Mathews will retire October 1. His family has planned a retirement celebration on September 27.
5. Finance:

- Interface Systems will administer the 2025 Fire Benefit Charge data for \$18,000.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the contract with Interface Systems LLC for the administration of the 2025 Fire Benefit Charge. There was a second by Commissioner Johnson. The motion was approved.

- The Board reviewed a draft Interlocal Agreement with Chelan and Douglas Counties for the collection of the Fire Benefit Charge fees.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement with Chelan County and Douglas County for the 2025 Fire Benefit Charge. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

- The administration recommends maintaining the current interlocal agreements for fire protection services during the first year of the fire benefit charge.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to continue with the current basis for fire protection agreements, as recommended. There was a second by Commissioner Johnson. The motion was approved.

IX. New Business

1. RiverCom Representation: After much discussion, the Board identified concerns for firefighter safety with the services currently provided by RiverCom including, radio traffic congestion, inaccurate time stamping, and a lack of fire representation on the Board.

X. Good of the Order

1. Commissioners de Mestre requested a 1:00 meeting start time schedule for the remainder of 2024.
2. Former Commissioner Ettore Castellente passed on praise to the department for the professional response to the evacuations at the Senior Center.

An Executive Session was called at 3:30, per RCW 42.30.110 (C) to consider the minimum pricing for real estate. The public meeting reconvened at 3:40.

An Executive Session was called at 3:40, per RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) to review collective bargaining negotiations. The public meeting reconvened at 3:50.

XI. Adjourn – 3:50 pm

Respectfully submitted, Terri Woods