

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 10, 2024**

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

Guests: Ettore Castellente, Stephanie Krabbe

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Andy Davidson, Deputy Chief Brandon Kunz, Captain Gavin Burnett, Captain Jordan Kunz, Captain Dustin Armitage, Firefighter Jesse Stone, and Cindy Blaufuss

- I. Called to Order: 2:00 pm.
- II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: The Aviation item under Unfinished Business was moved to item #1 and Facilities moved to item #3.
- III. Public Comments: None.
- IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion. The consent agenda items were approved.
- V. Correspondence: Chief Brett reported positive feedback from the public following the 4th of July weekend fires. He credits the Operations Division for the weekend's success.
- VI. Staff Reports:

1. Administration:

Chief Davidson: The Balsam Root fire burned 305 acres in the Horselake Road area. Two separate fires were attributed to fireworks within a two-hour period. Second and third alarms were immediately called before State Mobilization was authorized. Federal funding is being requested to re-seed the area with native vegetation.

The Beehive fire started the next day and was held to five acres. Early evacuation notices were issued for Forest Ridge out of concern for possible ember cast.

Commissioner Zimmerman reported DNR and USFS called for permission before using water from the Beehive Reservoir. The Squilchuck Water District will be following up to let the DNR and USFS know water is available for fires, but not for roadway work.

The department responded to an additional 17 fires over the weekend; there was strong backfill and upstaffing throughout the weekend from both career and volunteer firefighters.

Chief Brett: The volume of work completed since October 2022 is significant. An RFA Plan tracker is available on SharePoint to show progress on completing the tasks outlined in the Plan. All items are complete except for Service Standards and the Strategic Plan, which are in progress.

Goal trackers will also be used to show progress on completing the 2023 Commissioner workshop goals, the Strategic Plan, and Accreditation. The goal trackers will be shared with the Commissioners.

2. IAFF: Captain Gavin Burnett reported the "Cuffs and Axes" charity softball game is before the Apple Sox game at 2:00, July 14. The proceeds will benefit the Blue Bridges charity.
Firefighter Donne Etherington represented the department in the Battle of the Badges, winning the competition against law enforcement for a second year. Donations benefit Serve Wenatchee.
3. Volunteers: The response and turnout from volunteer members are unbelievable and paying off for our community. Participation is stronger than in years.

VII. Unfinished Business

1. **Aviation:** Captain Jordan Kunz reported that 1MR has flown 41.2 hours, setting a record for flight hours in June. The long rods were replaced during the 50-hour inspection. On July 2, all Type 2 helicopters in North America were grounded after a helicopter crash in Canada; the crash was caused by failed TT straps. 1MR was back in service July 9 after the TT straps were replaced.

The dashboard on 1PR is being replaced to DNR specifications. The department is considering transferring 1PR from Northwest Helicopters to DNR to install the dashboard and remaining tasks to finish 1PR. There may be cost savings, but the timeline could be longer. Captain Kunz and Firefighter Jesse Stone recommend DNR complete the final steps of the 1PR project. The Commissioners support that recommendation.

2. **Apparatus:**

Shop: The hoist and exhaust system have been installed in the Shop.

1946 Chevy: The department has asked the Volunteer Association to partner in maintaining the 1946 Chevy.

Brush 6 & 7: Both B6 and B7 are overweight per WSP and out of service. The Commissioners are concerned about the Department's liability. Options for certification and re-tanking will be researched.

Bulldozer: The department has needed a bulldozer four times this year. Chief Brett recommends adding a bulldozer to the Apparatus Replacement Plan. Options for a standby agreement for the rest of the season will be considered.

3. **Facilities:**

Conditional Use Permit: Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to award the Conditional Use Permit project to DOH. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The motion was approved.

Executive Session: At 3:50 the Board adjourned to an Executive Session to consider the acquisition of real estate (RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)). The Executive Session was scheduled for 30 minutes. The public meeting was reconvened at 4:20.

Purchase & Sale Agreement: Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The Agreement was approved.

4. **Personnel:** Firefighter Bovenzi graduates from the State Academy this month. Conditional offers have been extended to three applicants.
5. **Policy Review:** Commissioner Fennell suggested tabling the Discipline Policy until the August meeting.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Mission Statement, Delivery Standards, Purchasing, and Hazard Communication policies as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Fennell. The policy revisions were approved.

6. **Finance:** Chief Brett reported there have been many inquires regarding the Fire Benefit Charge Ballot Measure. Database errors are being identified and corrected. The corrected information will be provided to the County Assessors. Property owners are encouraged to contact the department if an error is suspected; an appeals process is also available. The department can modify square footage and weight factors in subsequent years.

VIII. Other Business and Good of the Order

1. Peer Support will be included as a Strategic Plan goal.
2. The push in ceremony for Ladder 4 will be at 11:00 am, Saturday at Fire Station 4.
3. Meetings with Microsoft are going well; a draft agreement has been provided for their consideration.
4. Data from the water purveyors has been provided to WSRB.
5. Chief Brett has contacted Douglas County Fire District 1, Grant County Fire Districts 3 and 13 regarding collaboratively annexing the Palisades.
6. Two public meetings to answer questions about the Fire Benefit Charge are scheduled:
 - 6:00 pm, July 24 at Fire Station 1
 - 10:00 am, July 27 at Fire Station 11
7. Legislation to reduce Fire Commissioner terms to four years is being proposed.

IX. Adjourn – 5:03 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss