

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2025**

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

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Andy Davidson, Deputy Chief Brandon Kunz, Battalion Chief Pete Rigelman, Captain Matt Rise, and Cindy Blaufuss

I. Call to Order: 1:00 pm.

II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: The Fire Benefit Charge Petition was added as Item 6 under New Business.

III. Public Comments: None.

IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner de Mestre reviewed the warrants this month.

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

V. Correspondence: None to report.

VI. Staff Reports:

1. Administration: Chief Brett:

- Commissioner Dormaier and Chief Brett attended the funeral service for George Moore. His family appreciated the department's presence at the service.
- Chief Brett met with local insurance agents. Many insurance companies are using third party wildfire mapping services which can include data errors if not validated. This information will be shared with other fire service organizations and eventually with the Insurance Commissioner.
- KPQ invited Chief Brett to speak on the LA fires. This is a good opportunity to educate the public on resources and resiliency efforts in the valley.
- Volunteers and Fire Prevention personnel will coordinate staffing a booth at the Home Show.
- An amended budget with staffing for Fire Station 17 will be presented at next month's meeting.
- The 2024 Performance Report is in progress. The information will be presented to the cities of Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Rock Island, and both Counties.
- The Operations and Strategic Plans have been shared with the Fire Commissioners. Personnel have received their assignments on the two plans.
- The department will use last year's applications for hiring this spring. The Veteran's preference will be updated on the next application.
- Architecture and engineering services for Fire Station 17 are estimated at \$103,000; DOH will coordinate the project. The Commissioners support moving forward with the project and the Agreement for services with DOH.
- Tomorrow is Chris Paul's last scheduled day. A ceremony to present Chris with the flag tomorrow morning is planned.

2. Operations: Chief Davidson

- Engine 11 with a crew of four has been assigned to the Palisades fire in California.
- Last year's final call volume was 6,229. There has been an upward trend of approximately 10% each year. Volunteer firefighters completed 4,505 training hours during the year and career firefighters completed 10,432 training hours.

- Firefighter Trystan Daniels will be attending the State Academy as a Company Officer with two of the newly hired firefighters. The third firefighter is a lateral hire with Department of Defense and Cal Fire training and experience.
- The transition to First Due software is going well. The updated version of I-Spy push-button response is working better.
- Commissioner Fennell will serve as the fire service representative on the RiverCom Board. RiverCom is short-staffed and unable to monitor the fire tactical channel; there are four monitored law enforcement channels. RiverCom has suggested using a trained AI app to monitor the tactical frequency. It is an imperfect solution but may be better than not being monitored. More information and a possible demonstration will follow. Testing on the drill ground was suggested.
- Apparatus
 - The department needs an additional Type 1 Engine to staff Fire Station 17. The engine would have the same specifications as the engine ordered last year; the cost is approximately \$1.19 million plus tax. There is a four-year timeline for engine orders. It is budgeted in this year's apparatus replacement plan, but it will be paid upon completion.
 - The department purchased two tenders for Stations 3 and 17 at the end of the year. The tenders will be in service for the fire season. The Shop is considering re-tanking another tender.
 - The department has been using a Zodiac jet outboard that belongs to the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. The boat is small and accommodating rescue swimmers and patients is difficult. The water rescue team is researching the cost of a rescue boat. Pasco Fire Department has a 24' boat available to the department, but mobility on the Columbia and Wenatchee Rivers are a concern.

3. Fire Prevention: No questions.

4. Logistics: Chief Kunz

- Fire Station 17 - The roof needs to be replaced, but it may be possible to use a spray polymer to extend the life of the roof; the product has a 50-year warranty. The company is sending samples and examples of use to make sure it will work in our environment. The BRIC grant will not be awarded for 12-18 months.
- Fire Station 11 has the same roof as 17. It also will need to be repaired or replaced.

5. Health, Safety and Volunteer Services: No Questions

6. IAFF: No report

7. Volunteers: Last night Chief Brett welcomed the Volunteers starting the Academy.

VII. Committee Reports:

1. The Performance Evaluation Committee made minor changes to the form and added 2025 goals. The updated form will be distributed for Commissioner completion in February.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Article II, Policy 26 Commissioner Compensation Policy

In addition to compensation for the monthly Fire Commissioner meetings, the policy authorizes one day for meeting preparation to read the materials before each meeting. All other meetings or events require pre-approval. The Commissioners requested meetings documents on the Friday before the meeting to allow adequate time for review.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Commissioner Compensation Policy, there was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The policy was approved.

2. Policy Review:

References to membership in the Volunteer Association were stricken from the LOSAP policy. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the revised policies as recommended. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The policies were approved.

IX. New Business

1. South Douglas Conservation District Interlocal Agreement

The Interlocal Agreement will reimburse the department for Hillary Heard's time on the Douglas County CWPP.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The Agreement was approved.

2. Chelan County Fire Benefit Charge Interlocal Agreement

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The Agreement was approved.

3. Resolution 2025-001 BRIC Sub-Application and Grant

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-001. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The Resolution was approved.

4. Apparatus Purchase

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to purchase a Pierce Type-1 Engine with payment upon completion. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The purchase was approved.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the purchase of two Type-3 International Chassis. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The purchase was approved.

5. Position Descriptions

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Position Descriptions as written. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The motion was approved.

6. Fire Benefit Charge Petition for Adjustment

The public will have the opportunity to submit a petition to adjust their 2025 fire benefit charge if they believe it is incorrect. The data for calculating the benefit charge did not include information on sprinkler systems, which reduces the benefit charge by 10%. There are also miscoded parcels. There could be a significant number of corrections in the first year. A special meeting will be scheduled in late March to review the Petitions.

X. Other Business and Good of the Order:

1. The Regular February meeting was rescheduled to the 19th.

XI. Adjourn – 3:07

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss