

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2023**

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

Staff: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Rick McBride, Division Chief Jeremie Clark, Battalion Chief Pete Rigelman, and Cindy Blaufuss

Guests: Doug Miller

- I. Called to Order: 2:00 pm
- II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: None.
- III. Public Comments:
 - Doug Miller said he was unable to find an FAA heliport registration for Fire Station 17.
- IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The consent agenda items were approved.
- V. Correspondence: Chief Brett reported the department continues to receive positive feedback from the community.
- VI. Staff Reports:

Administration: Chief Rick McBride reported five new members completed the Volunteer Academy. Two more new members who live in Colockum are completing their wildland certifications; this brings the Colockum-based volunteers to five members. Eleven applicants have been accepted into the Fall Resident Academy and another 16 are completing the physical agility assessment later in the month.

IAFF: Battalion Chief Pete Rigelman announced the Local is coordinating an on-site medical screening clinic this fall. All department members and spouses are invited to participate; the cost is \$300. Commissioner de Mestre reported the screening is very thorough and includes recommendations that can be shared with the member's healthcare provider.

Volunteers: Division Chief Jeremie Clark said volunteer participation levels have increased over the past two years. Wildland training is finished, and volunteers are prepared for fire season.

VII. Unfinished Business

- Facilities:

Fire Station 1: The report from DOH indicates the water intrusion in the tower is caused by improperly installed flashing. The cracks are cosmetic, not structural, but a monitoring sensor could be installed to track future changes. DOH recommends replacing one layer of asphalt in the parking lot with concrete to prevent water pooling between the layers of asphalt.

Airport: Chief Brett met with representatives from the National Guard; they intend to buy 28 acres of property near the airport and will need ARFF protection for their site. They plan to build 2031-2034. The Port District's construction timeline is similar, 2029-2030. The Port will host a meeting on their proposed TIF on July 11.

Former Fire Station 3: Steve Bishop is preparing a market analysis and recommends Pacific Appraisal determine the appropriate value for a public sale. The Station 3 crew will maintain the station and grounds.

Fire Station 3: An Open House is planned in September. The Commissioners suggest posting information to make homeowners aware of the improved insurance rating for Rock Island and recommend contacting their insurance agent. Information on the improved response capabilities could also be posted.

Fire Station 4: The concrete has been replaced on one-half the apron. Chief Brett will follow up with the contractor regarding its appearance.

Fire Station 17: The hot water heater and soft water system are being replaced because of the hard water at the station. The attorney is developing language to protect the department's position to continue use of the burn building and helipad in the event of future housing developments near the station.

Chief Brett met with personnel from DNR, BLM, and USFS regarding the upcoming fire season. The agencies are thankful for the housing the department is able to provide for their crew members.

Stemilt: A septic site evaluation has been scheduled.

- Apparatus: Training on the new Type-5 apparatus is complete. The newly purchased half-ton GMC needs a mobile radio installed and it will be in service. Ladder 4 is on-track for delivery in September.
- Aviation: The 1PR rotor has been installed and Northwest Helicopter is working on the avionics and particle separator. Once this work is complete, Chief Brett will request an updated cost estimate for finishing 1PR.

The 1MR contract with DNR began June 1. The standby revenue generated is enough to pay the operating expenses for both helicopters.

- Personnel: Volunteer Jim Wilson is retiring after 46 years in the fire service with multiple departments including the Alcoa brigade.
- Continuity of Operations: The draft has been amended to address the impact of a dam failure at the Douglas County fire stations.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adopt the Continuity of Operations Plan with grammatical corrections to paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Fire Chief section at the top of page 5. There was a second by Commissioner de Mestre. The Continuity of Operations Plan was adopted as amended.

VIII. New Business

- Operations Plan 2023-2024: The plan outlines both short and long-term department goals. A finance document will be prepared to accompany the Plan. This is a helpful tool for delegating tasks and setting timelines. The Commissioners will be asked to adopt the plan at the July meeting.
- 2. Declare Surplus: The items recommended for surplus include a 2008 dump truck, a 1994 pumper, and water rescue equipment. Once declared surplus, the items will be advertised for sale to the public.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to declare the recommended items as surplus. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

IX. Other Business and Good of the Order:

- The department will participate in the Battle of the Bridges on June 28 to benefit Serve Wenatchee.
- Washington State Patrol lifted the vaccine mandate for State Mobilization personnel effective May 22.
- Commissioner de Mestre attended the recent Touch a Truck event. He appreciated the time and effort of the personnel who participated. The event is always well attended by the community.
- Wenatchee Valley College is hosting an active shooter exercise on June 23.
- The department had the use of a training prop for ARFF training last month that worked well. It will be requested for three days next year.
- Commissioner Fennell said police were selling 50/50 tickets at the racetrack to raise charitable funds. This might be a good opportunity for the Volunteer Association or Local.
- Commissioner Fennell suggested the Board schedule a workshop to prioritize projects and budget spending. The process will begin with each Commissioner identifying their priorities for the department. The priorities will be compared and discussed at an upcoming workshop. Please email the priority list to Cindy B.
- Informal CBA negotiations have begun.
- The department is exploring the idea of a Facilities Technician to assist with maintenance.
- The Washington State Fire Fighters' Association held its 100th Fire School in Wenatchee last month. Jeremie Clark thanked the department on behalf of the Association for its continued support and assistance with the Fire School.
 - Lieutenant Wright was recognized as the Support Firefighter of the Year.
 - Jeremie Clark is serving as Chair of the Association.

X. Adjourn – 3:35.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss