

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 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 Clint Webley and Cindy Blaufuss

Guests: Ettore Castellente, Dr. Lance Jobe, Shawn Ballard, Mike Battis, Wayne Walker, Paul Blakney

I. Call to Order: 1:00 pm.

II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. The EMS Report was heard before the staff reports.

III. Public Comments: None.

IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner Evenhus reviewed this month's warrants.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The consent agenda items were approved.

V. Correspondence: Incoming correspondence has been shared via email.

VI. Committee Reports

1. EMS Committee – Dr. Jobe and representatives from Ballard and Lifeline Ambulance shared their perspectives on EMS service in the valley.
2. Performance Evaluation Committee – The Committee is drafting an employee survey to present to the Commissioners next month.

VII. Staff Reports:

1. Administration: Chief Brett

- The State Mobilization, DNR, and BLM Agreements have been updated.
- The Fire Benefit Charge database is being updated for the County Treasurers.
- Chief Brett will schedule presentations with the local jurisdictions; the schedule will be shared with the Fire Commissioners.
- Deputy Chief Employment Agreement:

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Deputy Chief Employment Agreement. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The Agreement was approved.

2. Aviation: Chief Brett

- IPR is still on schedule for completion June 1.

3. Operations: Chief Davidson

- The department responded to 2,180 calls for service as of May 8.
- The dozer and truck are ready for fire season.
- Four firefighters are attending the State Academy.
- The porta-tank compartment doors on the Rosenbauer tenders require three personnel to open safely. Chief Davidson recommends installing hydraulic actuators for \$6,600 each.

Commissioner Evenhus made a motion to approve \$14,000 to install hydraulic actuators. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The purchase was approved.

- The shop truck is scheduled for replacement in 2028 for \$70,000. However, several suitable used trucks have been for sale recently. Chief Davidson recommends authorizing up to \$50,000 for the purchase of an appropriate used truck.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to authorize up to \$50,000 for the purchase of a used shop truck. Commissioner Evenhus seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

4. Training – No questions.

5. Fire Prevention – No report, Chief Blanchard has been at conferences the past two weeks.

6. Wildfire Liaison – No questions.

7. Logistics: Chief Kunz

- Accreditation: The department is registered to begin the accreditation process.
- Fire Station 11 Roof: Chief Kunz no longer recommends the repair that was approved last month. The contractor said the roofing material was improperly installed. He recommends replacing the roof with a shingle roof. A shingle roof is the least expensive option and will last at least 15 years. He is requesting quotes.
- Hangar: Commissioner de Mestre recommends contacting the Port regarding the former FedEx building.
- Fire Station 17: The cost to change to an all-electric heating system is approximately \$80,000 plus the PUD costs. Both the architect and Chief Kunz recommend continuing with the gas/election option. The Commissioners agreed. An all-electric heating option will not be added as an alternate bid option.
- Tarpiscan property: The department is having a parcel appraised on Colockum Road. It has water and power and is less than two acres.
- Facilities Shop: Chief Kunz recommends authorizing \$25,000 to complete the electrical work needed on the facilities shop. Once the electrical work is complete, two new heaters can be installed. The electrical will also supply power to the irrigation system, lighting, and the reserve apparatus.

Commissioner Johnson authorized \$25,000 to complete work on the facilities shop. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The motion was approved.

8. Health, Safety and Volunteer Services: No questions

9. IAFF:

- Chief Webley said personnel cannot thank the members of the Peer Support team enough, they supported the department after Darin's passing. After experiencing peer support first-hand, the department will continue to build Peer Support and CISM teams. The Local is also exploring closer alternatives to the Center for Excellence.

Commissioner Evenhus said their Peer Support team can help guide WVFD through creating a team. He added there is a place for retirees on the team.

- Contract negotiations will begin for the new bargaining units.

10. Volunteers: The Volunteers had good parade participation.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Policy Review:

Commissioner Fennell requested the Alcohol and Drug policy include blood level limits for drugs, including THC, in addition to the blood alcohol limits. Article III, Policy 02 Alcohol and Drug Use was tabled pending revision.

Chief Brett verified with the attorney that the Technical Team pay will end in the event a program is discontinued.

Chief Webley explained the difference between swift water and PADI swimmers and certifications.

Commissioner Fennell made a motion to approve the policies as recommended, except the Alcohol and Drug policy. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The policies were approved.

Commissioner Fennell made a motion to rescind Article X, Division 5, Policy 02, Fireground Operations Structural Fires. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The policy was rescinded.

IX. New Business:

1. Position Descriptions: Chief Brett recommends approval of the three updated position descriptions.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the positions descriptions. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

2. Executive Session: At 3:45 the meeting was closed for an executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations (per RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a)); 30 minutes was estimated for the session. At 4:15 the session was extended for 10 minutes. At 4:25 the session was extended for 10 minutes. At 4:35 the session was extended for 10 minutes.

The public meeting was called back to order at 4:45.

X. Other Business and Good of the Order: The Commissioners discussed a fall retreat.

XI. Adjourn – 4:49.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss