

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

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

By Phone: Commissioner Evenhus

Absent: Commissioner de Mestre

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Andy Davidson, Deputy Chief Brandon Kunz, Captain Matt Rise, Captain Mark Zielinski, and Cindy Blaufuss

Guests: Ettore Castellente, Doug Miller

Commissioner Fennell thanked the Board for delaying this month's meeting by one week to accommodate staff schedules and allow an extra week for Chief Brett to prepare the budget amendment.

I. Call to Order: 1:00 pm.

II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: Discussion of the proposed Mission Ridge development was added to the agenda.

III. Public Comments: None.

IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner Fennell reviewed the warrants this month.

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

V. Correspondence: Chief Brett distributed thank you messages the department received this month via email.

VI. Staff Reports:

1. Administration: Chief Brett:

- Douglas County provided information on their proposed Wenatchi TIF District. The proposed district is projected to cost the department \$9.9 million over 20 years.
- Commissioner Zimmerman asked if the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mission Ridge project addresses fire service concerns and whether WVFD will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. The project appears to be moving forward quickly.

Chief Brett explained the department provided comments on the project in March 2020; he will redistribute the letter to the Commissioners. He has not seen any detailed plans and has not been invited to any formal meetings. If a fire station were built, volunteer firefighters must be assigned to the station to receive WSRB credit for insurance purposes.

- The State Fire Academy graduation is scheduled for April 18 and Volunteer Academy graduation is April 19. Chief Brett is on vacation for those dates.
- Chief Brett is scheduled to make a presentation to the City of Wenatchee. He is also scheduled to present on the draft CWPP to the Douglas County Commissioners.
- The Port sent out applications to gauge interest in a proposed box hangar construction project. This could be a temporary solution if the department's goal is to vacate Fire Station 17 sooner. Captains Kunz and Stone are evaluating the option. It could allow the Shop to expand into the hangar space for servicing the larger apparatus.

2. Operations: Chief Davidson

- The department responded to two MCI incidents this month. The second incident involved over 20 patients; six were transported. The department's response went well.

- The Type 1 Engine, authorized last month, has been ordered. The purchase of the brush truck chassis is in process.
- Tender 17 (now T14) can be re-tanked for \$48,000. This is good value compared to purchasing a new tender.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion approving the re-tank of Tender 17 (T14). There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

- The department would like to lease a bulldozer, truck, and trailer for fire season. The department's EVIP training is sufficient for operating the dozer. Captain Rise said it would be wise to commit to the dozer before construction begins this spring.

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion approving the lease of a bulldozer, truck, and trailer. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, the motion was approved.

- Personnel are researching options to purchase a boat for water rescue on both the Columbia and Wenatchee Rivers. The department is currently using a 16' Zodiac that belongs to the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. A larger boat would better accommodate personnel, patients, and equipment. The initial cost estimate for a boat, motor and equipment is \$177,268 purchased from a manufacturer in Oregon.

Chief Davidson explained that 19 people have been rescued from the rivers over the past two years. The boat would likely be stored at Fire Station 4 and launched at Confluence Park. Personnel have recognized there is a gap in our service delivery. After seeing Pasco's boat and what it can do, personnel were excited at the possibility. The Pasco boat was used as a starting point for the department's research.

The Commissioners agree there is a need but asked for more research. The discussion was tabled.

- Firefighter Trystan Daniels is doing a great job at the State Academy serving as Company Officer.

3. Fire Prevention:

- The Broadview neighborhood applied for a DNR grant to complete fuel reduction work. Their Firewise Day is scheduled in April.
- Adopting the CWPP and Hazard Mitigation Plans creates more opportunities for grant-funding.
- A fuel reduction project is planned for Sand Cayon before fire season begins. DNR will likely authorize a hand crew to assist.

4. Logistics: Chief Kunz

- Fire Station 17 – Crews will work out of half of the station during renovations. A grant application to replace the roof and purchase a generator has been submitted. Staff continue to explore options that could extend the life of the roof.
- The first draft of a hangar design was distributed. The design would allow for expansion along the back wall if the hangar were built in phases. The design includes room for staffing two helicopters and is designed to accommodate future helicopters.
- Upgrades to the HVAC system in the hangar are estimated at \$90,000; a PUD rebate will reduce the cost by approximately \$30,000. If the hangar will be used to expand the Shop, it makes sense to upgrade the HVAC now. The discussion was tabled until the March meeting.

5. Health, Safety and Volunteer Services: No Questions

6. IAFF: No report

7. Volunteers: No report.

VII. Committee Reports:

1. Performance Evaluation Committee – Please submit the Chief's evaluation allowing time for the evaluations to be compiled and reviewed before the March meeting.
2. EMS Committee – Commissioner Fennell formed an EMS Committee following a meeting between Chief Brett and Dr. Jobe. The Committee has not met.

Chief Brett will meet with the local ambulance companies to discuss the future of EMS in the area.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Policy Review:

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the revised policies as recommended. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The policies were approved.

2. Fire Benefit Charge Petition

The department is sending out postcards that explain the Petition process and ask citizens to contact the fire department with questions. The petition form and information on the process are available on the department's website. This is an opportunity to identify errors in the data and get them corrected. The petition appeals hearing is on March 26.

IX. New Business

1. Public Hearing: A public hearing was opened at 2:15 to allow public comment before the Board considers revisions to the 2025 Operating and Helicopter Budgets and Revenue Sources.

2. 2025 Operations Budget and Revenue Sources Amendment

Chief Brett said the budget amendment adds five FTE to fully staff Fire Station 17 in Malaga, a bulldozer lease, and the purchase of a rescue boat. A reduction in the apparatus replacement fund contribution offsets the additional expenses.

3. 2025 Helicopter Budget and Revenue Sources

The 2025 Helicopter budget includes the cost of monthly startup, training, maintenance, insurance, and upgrades to the fuel truck. The revenue is likely understated; an increase in the daily availability rate was negotiated with DNR.

Doug Miller asked about the state of EMS in the area and minimum initial response times being met. He commented that Wenatchee Valley Fire seems to be the only RFA without paramedics and added, he does not want to see EMS unregulated.

There were not any questions or comments from the public regarding the budgets.

The Public Hearing was closed at 2:35.

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to amend the 2025 Operations Budget and Revenue Sources. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The amended budget was approved.

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to approve the 2025 Helicopter Budget and Revenue Sources. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson, the budget was approved.

4. Surplus Recommendation

The recommendation is to declare fourteen gated wye appliances as surplus. The Cashmere Fire Department is interested in purchasing the appliances.

Chief Davidson explained the wye's have not been used because of a change in the hose lays used by the department; the new hose lays and appliances are more efficient. The sale to Cashmere will allow the department to recover some of the costs.

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

5. 2024 Performance Standards Report

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the 2024 Performance Standards Report. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The motion was approved.

6. Resolution 2025-0002 Adoption of the Chelan County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hillary Heard has worked on and reviewed the Plan.

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-002. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The Resolution was approved.

7. 2024 LOSAP Award

Three Volunteer members qualified for LOSAP credit in 2024. Personnel recommend distributing the \$10,000 LOSAP budget among the three Volunteers.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to award a \$3,333.33 LOSAP contribution to the three qualified Volunteer members for 2024. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, the motion was approved.

8. Resolution 2025-003 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Sub-Application and Grant

The HMGP replaces the BRIC grant as a possible funding source for roof replacement at Fire Station 17.

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-003. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The Resolution was approved.

X. Other Business and Good of the Order:

1. The banquet is scheduled for Friday, April 7 at St. Joseph's Church. Please RSVP if you will be attending.

XI. Adjourn – 3:05

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss