

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 08, 2024**

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

Guests: Ettore Castellente

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Rick McBride, Battalion Chief Pete Rigelman, and Cindy Blaufuss

I. Called to Order: 2:00 pm.

II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: None.

III. Public Comments: None.

IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner Evenhus reviewed the documentation for this month's warrants. Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The consent agenda items were approved.

V. Correspondence: The department's "Chief for a Day," 10-year-old Itzel, was recognized during the Apple Blossom Festival and rode with the Chief in the grand parade.

Fernanda Santos, who was recognized for her heroism at the January Commissioner meeting, will be honored by the Red Cross this Friday in Seattle.

The department will participate in a Firewise Forum at Pybus tonight.

VI. Staff Reports:

1. Administration: Chief McBride reported that five new volunteer members graduated from the Academy last week. Six more new volunteers are completing wildland training. Jay O'Connell is doing an excellent job on the department's facilities projects.

Chief Brett and the Fire Commissioners thanked Chief McBride for his years of service. Chief McBride said it has been a pleasure and honor to serve.

WSRB has not completed their evaluation; they are waiting for information from the water purveyors.

The final Strategic Planning internal stakeholder meeting is on Monday.

2. IAFF: No report.

3. Volunteers: There was great participation from the department and volunteers during the Apple Blossom and Classy Chassis parades.

VII. Unfinished Business

1. Facilities:

Fire Station 1: DOH and Pipkin Construction provided three options to expand the project area. The third option is recommended for approval. Moving forward, the department will need to minimize water use and avoid overfilling the dry well.

Commissioner Evenhus made a motion to approve Option 3 from Pipkin Construction. Commissioner de Mestre seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Zimmerman requested the Board be notified if any other issues are found during the project.

Fire Station 3: The Notice of Completion has been filed.

Fire Station 14: The station has been painted and sensors and cameras installed.

Fire Station 17:

- Security cameras have been installed.
- The department received two proposals to complete the Conditional Use Permit process from Ardurra and DOH. The CUP will include both the helipad and burning operations. Chief Brett recommends selecting Ardurra.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to select Ardurra to complete the Conditional Use Permit application. There was a second from Commissioner Fennell.

The Commissioners requested cost estimates for the project.

The motion was withdrawn.

Generator Grant: Because the cost estimates are significantly higher than the grant, additional grant funds have been requested. The department has a 12.5% cost-share.

Station Rebranding: Graybeal is installing the new station signs.

Electronic Reader Boards: The signs have been ordered and should be installed by July.

2. Apparatus: The brush trucks are ready for fire season, and the hoist will be installed this month.

A list of items for surplus will be requested from Shop personnel.

3. Aviation: Personnel are completing HECM and pilot training this week. 1MR is in-service and will be under contract to DNR beginning June 1.

House Bill 1498 removes air resources from State Mobilization requirements and guarantees DNR payment. Personnel will receive training on the new process later in the month.

Commissioners Fennell, Zimmerman, and Johnson toured ARFF facilities in Yakima and Pasco last month. ARFF in Pasco is Port-funded and can serve as a model for staffing and contract language. Chief Brett will continue ARFF discussions with the Chelan-Douglas Port District; he will be attending a meeting next week on their proposed TIF district near the airport.

4. Personnel: Recruit Firefighter Elijah Bovenzi has started the State Academy. Six shift personnel will be on disability or family leave in the coming months; the department may not be able to authorize deployments.

With Chief McBride retiring, Chief Brett recommends hiring Bob Magee on a part-time basis to assist with health, safety and volunteer services until the position is filled.

Two retirements are anticipated at year-end. Chief Brett may recommend hiring personnel before the August State Academy if the budget will allow.

5. Policy Review:

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the policy revisions as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The policy revisions were approved.

VIII. New Business

1. Deputy Chief of Logistics Position Description: Volunteer Services and Fleets have been removed from the job description. The position will include capital projects, accreditation, and community risk analysis.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Job Description effective June 1. There was a second from Commission Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

2. Performance Standards Report: Chief Brett is working on the last few data elements for the report. The I-Spy data is more accurate than the RiverCom data, but the transition has not worked as smoothly as Chief Brett had hoped. Progress is being made.
3. Executive Session: The Board adjourned to an executive session at 3:50 to consider the acquisition of real estate (RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)); the session was scheduled for 30 minutes. The public meeting reconvened at 4:22.

4. Authorization of Real Estate Negotiations:

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion authorizing Chief Brett to enter negotiations for the parcel discussed. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to begin a feasibility study on the second parcel discussed. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

IX. Adjourn – 4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss