

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 12, 2024**

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

Guests: Chris Mansfield

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Andy Davidson, Deputy Chief Kurt Blanchard, Battalion Chief Pete Rigelman, Captain Matt Rise, Captain Gavin Burnett, Captain Dustin Armitage, and Cindy Blaufuss

- I. Called to Order: 2:00 pm.
- II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. The Performance Standards Report was moved from item 7 under Unfinished Business to item 2.
- 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 as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The consent agenda items were approved.
- V. Correspondence: Chief Brett reported the department continues to receive positive support from the community. The department is recognizing operational efficiencies created by merging the two districts. The helicopter is credited with saving a house and shop during the fire in Rock Island. The residents were impressed and thankful for the response.
- VI. Staff Reports:
  1. Administration:

Chief Davidson: Chief Davidson said personnel have put an immense amount of work into improving overall response; the department is averaging just over 500 calls per month. He praised personnel for their work between June 10-12. The crews responded to 47 calls for service in that 48-hour period.

Chief Blanchard: Chief Blanchard reported the installation of Stortz fittings will continue into Chelan County this summer. Prevention personnel are completing the annual commercial occupancy inspections. The department participated in a safety event for the Drown Prevention Coalition in May, distributing 100 free life vests. CERT training for Volunteers will begin in June.
  2. IAFF: There will be a "Cuffs and Axes" charity softball game before the Apple Sox game at 2:00, July 14.
  3. Volunteers: There has been a great turnout from the Volunteers during the recent fires. The department is grateful to all the employers who allow their employees to volunteer. Morale among the volunteer members is high.

VII. Unfinished Business

1. Facilities:

Station 17 Conditional Use Permit: The attorney advised the award for the Conditional Use Permit needs to be separate from the Capital Improvement Plan. The two bidders estimated the costs between \$7,000-\$20,000. The Commissioners requested copies of the proposals. A decision was tabled until the July meeting.

Purchase and Sale Agreement: An agreement is being finalized; pre-application meetings will be scheduled.

Fire Station 1: DOH reports the storm drain should be adequate with the limited amount of water currently being used for drill at the station.

Fire Station 17: The bid for helipad design and administration was \$102,000 (excluding the construction costs). Chief Brett recommends putting the project on hold and researching an option to relocate Aviation to Pangborn. Fire Station 11 is also available as a second landing zone.

Station Rebranding: Station rebranding is finished. JP Sokolowski did a great job designing the department's new logo.

Wenatchee Heights Parcel: The department is collaborating with the owner of the adjacent parcel to identify a location for a new water line that will be mutually beneficial.

2. Performance Standards Report: WVFD is the only local department required to produce a performance report. The RiverCom data is inaccurate because it must be entered manually. The inaccurate data indicates the department is failing the response standards. RiverCom uses Spillman which is designed for law enforcement and only has one designated fire dispatcher.

The department is the first to use the I-Spy push to respond feature for response data. There are still bugs to be worked out, but it is becoming more reliable.

Chief Brett plans to discuss a fire-based CAD platform at the next NCW Chief Association meeting. The other Chiefs may not be aware of the data errors.

Commissioner de Mestre expressed his frustration with the inaccurate data provided by RiverCom. Chief Davidson explained the RiverCom Board of Directors is sympathetic to the issue and progress is being made to address the data collection needs of the fire service.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the 2023 Performance Standards Report. There was a second from Commission Evenhus. The Report was approved.

3. Apparatus:

Pierce Engine: Captain Matt Rise reported the engine specifications are complete. The fire districts had two different sets of specifications. The specs for Engine 1 and Engine 13 were reviewed and compared to develop a new set of specifications for WVFD. The Pierce engine is designed to be a no frills, work truck. If ordered before July 26 and prepaid, the cost will be \$1,077,359. The completion timeline is between 45-50 months.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to authorize the purchase of the Pierce Engine based on the specifications provided for \$1,077,359. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The purchase was approved.

Ladder 10: The pre-conference meeting should be scheduled in the fall.

Shop Lift: The new shop lift has been installed.

Apparatus Replacement Plan: The cost figures in the Apparatus Replacement Plan need to be updated again because of increased costs for apparatus.

4. Aviation: 1MR has been under contact since June 1 and has flown 28 hours as of today; it is currently assigned to the Pioneer Fire in Chelan. No updates on 1PR.
5. Personnel:

Personnel Promotions: Four personnel have been promoted this spring: Brandon Kunz is the new Deputy Chief of Logistics, Austin Flemens has been promoted to Captain, and Anthony Stone and Casey Goss have been promoted to Lieutenant.

Temporary Employment Agreement: The Volunteer Coordinator position is still vacant. Chief Brett recommends hiring Bob Magee to temporarily fill the role, working 20 hours a week through the year-end.

Commissioner Evenhus made a motion approving a Temporary Employment Agreement, there was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The motion was approved.

Firefighter Hiring: There will likely be three vacancies through attrition in 2025. Chief Brett would like to fill the vacancies on August 1 to allow candidates to attend the August State Fire Academy, if needed, and be working on-shift by year-end.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to authorize the hiring of three firefighters by August 1 using the existing firefighter hiring list. There was a second from Commission Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

6. Policy Review:

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

7. Finance: Chief Brett has been meeting with local agencies and service clubs to answer questions about the Fire Benefit Charge.

Commissioner Zimmerman suggested communicating with farmers and orchardists to make sure they understand their acreage will be excluded unless there are structures on the parcel.

Chief Brett says he is continuing to learn about the database, and he has ideas for adjustments and improvements that could be made for 2026.

VIII. New Business

1. Surplus Recommendation:

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to approve items recommended for surplus. There was a second from Commission Evenhus. The motion was approved.

IX. Other Business and Good of the Order

1. Chelan County PUD Outage Management: The PUD will not cut power except as a last resort and would notify the department if an outage is necessary. In the event of an outage, the PUD would likely need to inspect the lines before they are re-energized.
2. Palisades: The Commissioners discussed fire response to the Palisades. Chief Brett will follow up with the landowners and neighboring fire districts.
3. Celebration Protocol: Commissioner Fennell would like to adopt recognition protocols based on those outlined in Pride in Ownership. Chief Brett has ordered the book.
4. The August meeting will be rescheduled for Wednesday, August 7.
5. Strategic Plan: The plan is almost complete and may be ready for the July meeting.
6. Discipline Policy: Chief Brett reviewed the draft policy with the attorney today. He will add a purpose statement and schedule training for the Administration and Officers.
7. Kelly Lindemann's family is planning a retirement party at the Town Toyota Center on July 13.
8. Memorial Services:
  - The service for James Wood was well attended last Saturday.
  - The service for Denny Cockrum will be this Saturday.

X. Adjourn – 4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss