

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 23, 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, Deputy Chief Kurt Blanchard, Captain Matt Rise, Captain Jordan Kunz, Captain Jesse Stone, and Cindy Blaufuss

Guests: Ettore Castellente

I. Call to Order: 1:00 pm.

II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. The Fire Prevention, Aviation, and Apparatus Reports will be the first staff reports presented.

III. Public Comments: None.

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

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, including the Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion. The consent agenda items were approved.

V. Correspondence: The department received an outpouring of community support following the passing of Darin Radcliffe.

VI. Staff Reports:

1. Fire Prevention: Chief Blanchard

- Chief Blanchard will be instructing at the upcoming investigation conference in Leavenworth.
- The hydrogen plant will be commissioned this month.
- Microsoft construction continues in both counties; the department is coordinating with the authorities having jurisdiction.

2. Aviation: Captain J. Kunz and Captain Stone

- 1MR is in Olympia for pre-season maintenance and inspection.
- Pilots and crew will be on standby for Initial Attack during May and October. The managers plan to make improvements to speed up launch times. The department wants to hire more on-call pilots.
- Bill 1498 allows the State to pay for the use of aviation assets during Initial Attack.

1PR

- It will be flown to the Dalles for inspection and carding in May. The Head Mechanic states it will be ready by June 1.
- The department has invested \$1.18 million in 1PR, which is less than DNR's last build at \$1.65 million.
- 1PR will be piggybacked on 1MR's contract with DNR. The department will have use of the helicopter during the contract. The helicopter will be carded, but not the pilots; the department can fly on initial attack until federal or state resources arrive.
- Commissioner de Mestre asked about starting a helicopter replacement fund. Chief Brett said there is a placeholder in the budget.
- Captain Kunz reported both helicopters have about 20 years of life. There is high demand for Huey helicopters across many industries, and parts are readily available.

- Commissioner Fennell asked if this is the final budget request for 1PR. Captain Kunz explained the final expenses bring 1PR to DNR specifications; it will be the same as 1MR and all other DNR helicopters.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to authorize \$45,902 for the completion of 1PR. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion; the motion was approved.

### 3. Apparatus: Captain Rise

#### Ladder 10

- The pre-conference meeting for Ladder 10 is complete. The final Change Order to match the Ladder 4 specifications is \$22,445.53 and completion is expected at the end of November.
- Chief Davidson said the apparatus committee has worked hard to keep the costs down.
- Funding for the Change Order is included in the budget.

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to approve the Ladder 10 Change Order for \$22,445.53. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The Change Order was approved.

#### Dozer

- Personnel will pick up the rented bulldozer and truck next week. The lease is \$14,500 per month plus mileage on the truck.
- The department has good candidates available to assist with the program.
- Personnel will participate in the DNR dozer academy in June.

### 4. Administration: Chief Brett

- Captain Jack Cattin passed away yesterday. The department will present a plaque to the family.
- Chief for a Day is tomorrow. She is the granddaughter of a member who recently passed away. Chief Brett will present a plaque to the family recognizing his service.
- This is the first week for the newly hired firefighters.
- Micah Satterfield and Casey Goss graduated from the State Academy last Friday. The Volunteer Academy graduation was Saturday.

#### Deputy Chief Employment Agreement

- Language requiring Board approval for terminations was added.
- Commissioner de Mestre added language that, in the event of a termination without cause, would allow an employee to return to their prior position within the bargaining unit if the position is available. He wants to encourage employees to promote out of the Local and step up to the Deputy Chief positions. Commissioner Fennell agreed that a position must be available and suggested mirroring the self-demotion language in the CBA.
- Commissioner Fennell recommended that 100% of sick leave be cashed out in the event of a Line of Duty Death.

The Agreement will be updated and reviewed by the attorney before being presented for approval at the May meeting.

### 5. Operations: Chief Davidson

- The department had responded to 1,637 calls as of last week.
- The new tenders will be in service by June 1.
- The helicopter fuel truck has been replumbed.
- Five new firefighters started their orientation this week.

- The training completed during the first quarter was reviewed.

6. Logistics: Chief Kunz

- Generator Grant: The grant-funded generators at Fire Stations 11 and 13 have been installed. There was a change order to relocate the generator at Fire Station 11, but the cost will be covered by the grant.

- Fire Station 11 Roof: The estimate to repair the roof is \$34,000. Chief Kunz would like to proceed with the repair work.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the roof repair at Fire Station 11. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The motion was approved.

- Fire Station 17: The architect estimates the cost to renovate Fire Station 17 at \$1.6 million, including the roof replacement and backup generator. Chief Kunz would like authorization to proceed with the bidding process.

Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to proceed with the bidding process for Fire Station 17 renovation. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The motion was approved.

The Commissioners requested the bid documents include an alternate bid for electric heating in the station.

- Hangar: The heater needs to be replaced this year. The Commissioners requested cost estimates to change the hangar to electric heat.
- Fire Station 12: The architect has completed the preliminary design for the future station. Chief Kunz recommends the project be completed in phases.
- Dump Trailer: The Commissioners declared the dump trailer as surplus last month because it does not meet the department's needs. Chief Kunz recommends the purchase of a 6 x 12-foot dump trailer with heavy duty ramps for \$10,700. Once the new trailer is in-service the surplus trailer will be sold.

Commissioner Fennell made a motion to approve the dump trailer purchase. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The purchase was approved.

7. Health, Safety and Volunteer Services: No Questions

8. IAFF: No report.

VII. Volunteers: The Volunteers have entries in this year's parades.

VIII. Committee Reports:

1. Performance Evaluation Committee – The Committee will use a survey to solicit input on the selection of the next Fire Chief. Please provide any questions or suggestions prior to the May meeting.
2. EMS Committee – Dr. Jobe and representatives from Ballard and Lifeline Ambulance have been invited to attend the May meeting.

IX. Unfinished Business

1. Policy Review:

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Memorial Policy as recommended. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The policy was approved.

A decision on the Water Rescue Policy was tabled until the May meeting.

2. Public Hearing – A public hearing was opened to allow public comment before the Board considers additional 2025 Petitions for a Fire Benefit Charge adjustment.

There were no public comments; the public hearing was closed.

3. Fire Benefit Charge:

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve all Petitions listed on Attachment 1, except for the first three listed. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The Petitions were approved.

Chief Brett will follow up with the property owner of the first three parcels listed on Attachment 1.

X. New Business

1. Resolution 2025-005 MERP for Promoted Personnel

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-005. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The Resolution was approved.

2. Resolution 2025-004 Public Records Index

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-004. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The Resolution was approved.

3. Executive Session:

An Executive Session was called at 3:45 to discuss collective bargaining negotiations (per RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a)) and to review personnel performance (per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)). The Executive Session was scheduled for 30 minutes; the session was extended for ten minutes at 4:15 and five minutes at 4:25. The open meeting reconvened at 4:30.

XI. Other Business and Good of the Order: None

XII. Adjourn – 4:34

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss