

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2024**

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

By Phone: Commissioner Evenhus

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Andy Davidson, Battalion Chief Jordan Givens, Captain Matt Rise, and Cindy Blaufuss

- I. Called to Order: 2:00 pm.
- II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: A bond discussion was added to Finance on the agenda.
- III. Public Comments: None.
- IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The consent agenda items were approved.
- V. Correspondence: Chelan County, the city of Wenatchee, and the department received a letter from homeowners near Horselake Road. They expressed their appreciation and concern following the Balsam Root fire. The homeowners would like Horselake Road to be closed over the 4th of July weekend. Commissioner Dormaier said the road used to be closed mid-June to mid-September. The Fire Commissioners support the closure and will send a letter to the County Commissioners recommending the road closure coincide with the burn ban dates.
- VI. Staff Reports:
 1. Administration:

Chief Brett: DNR is funding a reseeded project this fall in the Broadview area shrub-steppe. It will include the area impacted by the Balsom Root fire.

SharePoint project trackers will be used to document progress on the RFA Plan, Strategic Plan, and Operations Plan.

The draft Strategic Plan was distributed for review.

Deputy Chief Davidson: The Shop is requesting cost estimates to re-tank Brush 6 and 7. There is concern regarding long-term maintenance; parts are difficult to find. Grant County Fire District 3 is interested in purchasing the vehicles. The Commissioners requested more information at the next meeting to make an informed decision.
 2. IAFF: The department thanked the IAFF for supporting the recent ballot measure.
 3. Volunteers: There wasn't a meeting last night. A streamlined point system is being discussed.

VII. Unfinished Business

1. Facilities: Deputy Chief Brandon Kunz provided a facilities update.
 - Bids are being solicited to repair the Fire Station 17 roof.
 - He met with DOH at Station 17 to work on the Conditional Use Permit and Capital Improvement Plan.
 - The property purchase on Western is complete.
 - The National Guard is working on the Conditional Use Permit for the Pangborn project; they intend to reserve two acres for the Fire Department. They hope to complete the CUP by year-end.
2. Apparatus:
 - The 1946 parade truck has been repaired.
 - Engines 11 and 13 are having new drain systems installed.

- The waterway on Ladder 10 was damaged; it is currently out of service.
- The Mechanic's Conference is next month; all three mechanics will be attending.
- The construction meeting for the new Ladder 10 is tentatively scheduled for April 2025.

Bulldozer: Chief Brett met with representatives from Pipkin, Smith and Selland Construction. Pipkin and Smith have contracted with DNR in the past. They are willing to assist with short-term use in the shrub-steppe. The attorney recommends the department contact the insurance provider and review L&I and WISHA requirements.

Captain Matt Rise explained the department has four qualified dozer operators if a bulldozer is purchased. He recommends new; it is hard to find used equipment with low hours.

A third option is a seasonal rental or lease. Options will be analyzed further before next year.

3. Aviation: 1MR is close to its 150-hour primary inspection. The bid for the inspection is \$13,500 with a six-day turnaround. 1PR will be moved to DNR for completion.
4. Personnel: Captain Terry Mathews has announced his retirement at the end of September. Jesse Stone has been promoted to Captain to fill Terry's vacancy. Two of the newly hired firefighters are at the Fire Academy. The third new hire, Matt Rick, has been assigned directly to shift. Firefighter Bovenzi has graduated from the Academy and is assigned to shift.

Chief Brett recommends promoting Keith Wright to the rank of Division Chief. The Commissioners support the promotion.

5. Policy Review: Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Discipline and Hazard Communications policies as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The policies were approved.
6. Finance: The ballot measure results will be certified in two weeks. Chief Brett recommends making some minor corrections and adjustments to the data before the public hearing in November. There will likely be appeals during the first year.

The Commissioners discussed the use of bond proceeds to build fire stations in Stemilt and Wenatchee Heights. The Capital Improvement Plan will include preliminary plans for Stemilt, Wenatchee Heights, Colockum, Pangborn, and replacement of Fire Station 12.

VIII. New Business

1. The Cashmere Fire Department has offered the department \$2,750 to purchase the 2003 Ford F-550 (Unit 6.02) that was declared surplus in June.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to accept Cashmere's Purchase Offer. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The sale was approved.

2. Legislation to reduce Fire Commissioner terms to four years is being proposed.

IX. Good of the Order

1. Chief Brett and Martie Roy will attend the Washington Fallen Firefighter Memorial on Sunday.
2. Commissioners de Mestre, Fennell, and Johnson plan to attend the Fire Commissioner Conference and Snure Seminar.
3. The Upper Columbia Irrigation District does not want to pay for fire protection. The Commissioners stated it is important to be consistent with all agencies.
4. Chief Brett will contact Brian Marone at Davis, Arneil to represent the department in fire protection discussions with Confluence Health.

X. Adjourn – 4:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss