

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 9, 2025**

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

By Phone: Commissioner Fennell

Absent: Commissioner Evenhus

Guests: Ettore Castellente

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Andy Davidson, Deputy Chief Kurt Blanchard, and Cindy Blaufuss

I. Call to Order: 1:00 pm.

II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: None.

III. Public Comments: None.

IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner de Mestre reviewed this month's warrants. He asked why only one actuator was purchased for the tenders, instead of two. Chief Davidson explained the Shop wanted to make sure the actuator could be installed and would work before purchasing the second.

Commissioner de Mestre asked about the TIF workshop notes. Chief Brett explained they are management notes, rather than minutes. Chief Brett is attending a TIF meeting in Olympia and hopes a representative from the Department of Revenue will be present to review TIF revenue calculations.

Commissioner Fennell made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The consent agenda items were approved.

V. Correspondence:

- Received a thank you from Our Valley Our Futures for Chief Brett's participation at their event.
- Fielding phone calls regarding the revised tax statements issued by Douglas County; they were issued to homeowners who received the 10% sprinkler credit on their Fire Benefit Charge.
- Communicating with the Assessors to confirm the department's banked levy capacity for 2026.

VI. Staff Reports:

1. Administration: Chief Brett

- The department staffed ten additional apparatus and the dozer on July 4; this allowed the department to respond to simultaneous fires in Rock Island and Malaga.

2. Aviation: Chief Brett

- Captain Jordan Kunz is working with DNR to get 1PR in service. The Commissioners asked to be notified when 1PR returns to the valley.

3. Operations: Chief Davidson

- The recent fire at 10th Street and Nile was similar to an incident in 2017. This year the department was able to get the needed resources very quickly; air resources were ordered within ten minutes, and the dozer was enroute within 22 minutes.
- The dozer has been deployed three times and has been highly effective.
- The department has identified a need for ballistic vests and helmets for certain types of incidents. Commissioner de Mestre recommends the vests be distinguishable from law

enforcement. Commissioner Fennell asked for data on how often the vests would have been worn. Chief Davidson will get more information regarding the vests.

4. Training – No questions.

5. Fire Prevention: Kurt Blanchard

- Chief Blanchard plans to expand CERT with the health district utilizing retired emergency medical workers.
- Chief Blanchard will spend a day touring the valley with Hilary Franz for ideas on improving resiliency in the valley.

6. Logistics: Chief Brett

- Chief Kunz recommends the Fire Station 17 generator be declared as surplus. It has been out of service for several years.

Commissioner Fennell made a motion to declare the generator surplus. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

- The parcel south of Fire Station 13 was appraised at \$70,000 and the owners have agreed to sell the property to the department.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement for \$70,000 plus closing costs. There was a second from Commissioner Fennell. The agreement was approved.

- Commissioner de Mestre asked about the Ironwood Capital Needs Assessment. Chief Brett explained it will be part of the Capital Improvement Plan. DOH is compiling the Capital Improvement Plan but estimated it would take a year to complete.

Chief Brett said there are some health and safety concerns identified in the Needs Assessment that will be addressed by Chief Magee and the Safety Committee.

Commissioner de Mestre said the Capital Improvement Plan can be used for negotiating the impacts of a TIF in Malaga.

7. Health, Safety and Volunteer Services: No questions

8. IAFF – No report.

9. Volunteers: The department was offered Ron Roy's two miniature fire trucks. Chief Brett would like to accept the gift and transfer the titles to the department.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to accept the miniature fire trucks. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion was approved.

VII. Committee Reports

1. Performance Evaluation Committee: Sixty-six personnel responded to the survey. The Commissioners agreed that Commissioners Fennell and de Mestre will review the results and bring information back to the Board at the August meeting.

2. EMS Committee: Nothing to report.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Policy Review:

Commissioner Johnson asked about the Policy being rescinded. Chief Davidson explained it is an older policy that has been replaced by two newer and more thorough policies.

Commissioner Fennell made a motion to approve the policy recommendations. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The policies were approved.

2. Executive Session: At 2:06 the meeting was closed for an executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations (per RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a)). The session was estimated for ten minutes. At 2:16 the session was extended an additional 10 minutes.

The public meeting was called back to order at 2:25.

3. Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Firefighters & Captain 2025 CBA Amendment. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The amendment was approved.

An MOU will be presented to the Commissioners for signature at the August meeting.

IX. New Business: None.

1. Position Description – Finance Officer

This new position would combine the finance functions currently performed by Chief Brett and Cindy Blaufuss. Chief Brett used comparable departments to determine the salary range. The position will likely be advertised in January with the final hiring decision made after the selection of a new Fire Chief. Please review and provide feedback on the position description.

Commissioner Dormaier said it is a well thought out document.

X. Other Business and Good of the Order: None.

XI. Adjourn – 2:36.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss