

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2022**

Commissioners: Commissioner Castellente, Commissioner de Mestre, Commissioner Dormaier, Commissioner Dave Fennell, Commissioner Danny Johnson, Commissioner Zimmerman

Staff: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Terri Woods, Cindy Blaufuss

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 am

DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2

Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the September 8 meeting minutes. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The minutes were approved.

Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the September 14 meeting minutes. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The minutes were approved.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the September 21 meeting minutes. There was a second from Commissioner Castellente. The minutes were approved.

Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the September 28 meeting minutes. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The minutes were approved.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the September 30 meeting minutes. There was a second from Commissioner Castellente. The minutes were approved.

Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the expenses as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The expenses were approved.

CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for September 14, 21, 28 and 30. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The minutes were approved.

WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

There were no public comments.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the RFA Committee minutes for September 21 and 28, and the Board meeting minutes for September 30. There was a second from Commissioner Castellente. The minutes were approved.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Facilities:

- **Fire Station 14:** The station was burglarized. Personnel are calculating the value of the equipment stolen to determine if an insurance claim is warranted. New keypad locks have been ordered for all fire stations to improve station safety. Chief Brett will research possible additional security measures for the volunteer stations and shop.

- **Mission Ridge Expansion:** Chief Brett explained the land use attorney recommends meeting with the Mission Ridge expansion developer regarding egress and shelter-in-place concerns for the development. Commissioner Zimmerman plans to attend the meeting.
- **Fire Station 12:** An exhaust removal system has been installed at Fire Station 12. The system has one track; the purchase of two more tracks to complete the system is budgeted in 2023.
- **Pangborn:** The modular homes are in need of repairs and improvements; the department is responsible for maintaining the interiors. The Commissioners support the improvements and sharing the cost to repair or replace the station doors. Chief Brett will request a computer for the office.
- **Stemilt Parcel:** The survey of the Stemilt parcel is complete. It has not been appraised, or a price negotiated. The department has been annexing area parcels into the district.
- **Wenatchee Heights Parcel:** The Berdan family donated property on Wenatchee Heights for a future station.
- **Fire Station 1:** The department has not received the engineer's report for the erosion and hose tower damage at Fire Station 1. Last weekend's open house was well attended.
- **Fire Station 3:**
 - The cost of the site improvement required by the City of Rock Island is lower than the original estimates.
 - The contractor recommends the thickness of the asphalt be reduced from 3 inches to 1½ inches to save \$10,000; both would have a 50-year warranty. The Commissioners agreed the thicker asphalt is preferred.
 - Chief Brett has information on the magnetic field, but potential health impacts are unknown. He will research whether this was disclosed during the pre-application meeting and follow up on the possible use of grounding rods.
 - Chief Brett will also research the purchase price of the old Rock Island Fire Station.
- **Fire Station 4:** An open house is scheduled for this coming Saturday.

Apparatus:

- Type-5 brush truck build is almost complete.
- The cost estimate to prepare the FEPP truck is \$14,000. Chief Brett will determine if FEPP may have the parts available for the repair.

Aviation:

- 1MR completed a rescue in the Enchantments with Chelan County Sheriffs Office on Monday. The department incurred costs assisting with the rescue. Chief Brett will contact the CCSO to learn if they plan to seek restitution for their expenses.
- 1MR will require a primary inspection after 6.6 more flight hours. After this week's pilot training, it will be sent to DNR for the inspection. A six-week turnaround is expected.
- Rotor blades were acquired from FEPP for the 1PR build. They are being inspected to determine life.
- The cost estimate to complete 1PR is \$552,000. An engine and avionics are included in the 2023 budget.
- No progress on the lawsuit against the Helicopter Institute

Personnel: The Douglas County Commissioners intend to terminate their fire marshal contract at the end of the year. They plan to hire their own fire official. The fire marshal contract with the city of East Wenatchee will continue. The Commissions recommended seeking a long-term contract with the city.

Attorney Selection: The Commissioners agreed that both attorneys and their firms are highly qualified to represent the department.

Commissioner Fennell made a motion to select Bob Siderius and Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn and Aylward to represent the department. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The motion was approved with five votes in favor and one opposed.

Draft 2023 Budget & Revenue Sources:

- Chief Brett presented the first draft budget for 2023. The Operating Fund will have a beginning balance equal to 25% of the 2023 Budget.
- Projected revenue for the 1MR contract with DNR is included. Helicopter expenses include maintenance and insurance for 1MR and capital expenditures of \$552,000 for 1PR. Commissioner Johnson requested more information on helicopter revenue versus expenses.
- Commissioner Dormaier recommends updating the fleet replacement to incorporate the combined fleets.
- Volunteer services has increased funding to improve recruitment and retention efforts. Higher per diem and LOSAP are designed to assist with recruitment and retention.
- Chief Brett explained the budget includes the combined liability insurance policy with an additional \$2 million in form-following coverage. He has consulted the insurance broker on the need and cost of an umbrella policy.
- A special meeting will be scheduled on November 2.

Collective Bargaining Agreement: The 15-month draft CBA has been reviewed by the attorney and merges the salaries and benefits of the two fire districts.

Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement, striking the language in Article 10.4 and Article 20.2.2. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The Agreement as amended was approved.

Chelan County Fire District 1 Wage and Benefit MOU: Commissioner Zimmerman made a motion to approve the MOU as presented. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The MOU was approved.

Douglas County Fire District 2 Wage and Benefit MOU: Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the MOU as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Johnson. The MOU was approved.

Resolution 2022-012 Length of Program for Volunteers: The 2022 and 2023 budgets each include \$10,000 for LOSAP incentives to reward volunteers who exceed annual participation requirements.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-012 and the Length of Service Program. There was a second from Commissioner Castellente. The Resolution and policy were approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Fennell asked the Commissioners to share their ideas on strategic planning with him via email.

There being no further business, the Planning Committee adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss