

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2025**

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

Absent: Commissioner Fennell

Personnel: Fire Chief Brian Brett and Cindy Blaufuss

Guests: Ettore Castellente

I. Call to Order: 1:00 pm.

II. Public Comments: None.

III. Unfinished Business

1. Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) Petitions for Adjustment

Chief Brett explained the department fielded several hundred phone calls and inquiries regarding the FBC. Most interaction was positive. He reviewed the petitions that were submitted by category:

- 1) Sprinkler discount that was not applied (10%).
- 2) Senior, disability or low-income discount not applied.
- 3) Corrections to square footage or classification.
- 4) Other reasons, including financial burden.

Several petitions were submitted for older warehouses in Wenatchee. In these instances, the lower values and higher square footage increased the cost for fire protection. The Fire Commissioners can reevaluate the impact before adopting the 2026 FBC.

The Commissioners discussed options for additional senior or low-income discounts and the rate applied to mobile homes. Mobile homes also saw a spike in fire protection costs with the FBC.

2. Public Hearing

A public hearing was opened to allow comment before the Board considered the 2025 FBC Petitions for Adjustment. There were no public comments. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve all Petitions included in Attachments 1, 2, and 3. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The petitions were approved.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to deny Petitions 1-6 on Attachment 4 and table the decision on 7-9 pending clarification. There was a second from Commissioner Evenhus. The motion was approved.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the Petitions included on Attachment 5. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The petitions were approved.

IV. Adjourn – 1:51

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss