

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2023**

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

Staff: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Captain Jordan Kunz, Cindy Blaufuss

- I. Called to Order: 2:00 pm
- II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: None.
- III. Public Comments: No public comments.
- IV. Public Hearing: The department did not receive any comments on the proposed annexation of Parcel 221923330050.
- V. Consent Agenda: Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The consent agenda items were approved.
- VI. Correspondence: The "Chief for a Day" families for 2021 and 2022 expressed their thanks to the department.
- VII. Staff Reports:

Administration: Captain Jordan Kunz provided an update on the department's aviation program; he has been involved in the program for five years. Captain Kunz and Firefighter Jesse Stone manage the program, coordinate training, serve as key contacts with DNR, and consult with Northwest Helicopter on the 1PR build.

DNR has set a goal of limiting wildfires to ten acres or less, and aviation assets are key to stopping the spread and meeting that goal. There is a consistent need for air resources because they can be quickly deployed to meet the 10-acre goal. The department's helicopter is not just an asset to the Wenatchee Valley, but to all neighboring jurisdictions as well. In rugged terrain or remote areas, air resources can keep a fire in check until firefighters arrive on scene. Air assets also allow for Search & Rescue operations similar to the rescue in the Enchantments last year.

There is helicopter program interest among department personnel; 13 helicopter crew members and managers are currently on the team. The team is diverse with member backgrounds in both wildland firefighting and aviation. Members also have a good mix of skillsets, including EMT and rope rescue.

IAFF: No report.

Volunteers: The volunteer members participated in the Apple Blossom and Classy Chassis parades. Chief Brett will coordinate an after-action review to get feedback on the banquet.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Facilities:

Fire Station 3: The station was fully staffed on May 1. An open house is tentatively planned for the morning of September 16.

Former Station 3: Chief Brett recommends adding the water damage mitigation costs to the price of the station when it is declared surplus. The Commissioners agreed.

Fire Station 14: Cameras are being installed and monitoring will begin later this month.

Fire Station 4: The generator did not start during a recent power outage; the department will follow up with the contractor.

2. Apparatus: Pump testing will start next week. Both of the Type-5 trucks are in service. The Shop will review the fleet and determine what apparatus can be declared as surplus.
3. Aviation: The engine has been installed in 1PR and Northwest Helicopter is completing the other components authorized in this year's budget. 1MR will be under contract with DNR beginning June 1.
4. Personnel: The department promoted three Captains on May 1 to complete the Fire Station 3 staffing.
5. Policy Review:

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

IX. New Business

1. Annexation of Parcel 221923330050 (Fowler): The department did not receive any comments from the public.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-002 and Resolution 2023-004. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. Both Resolutions were adopted.

2. Apparatus Branding: The apparatus can be re-branded with the new WVFD logo for \$3,000 if installation is completed in-house. The Commissioners support moving forward on apparatus rebranding.
3. Continuity of Operations Plan: Chief Brett will send out a revised Plan before the June meeting.

X. Other Business and Good of the Order:

- A draft Operations Plan is 70% complete for 2023-2024. Chief Brett hopes to present a draft next month. The Plan will include all financing options available to the department and a contraction plan in the event additional funding is not secured.
- Anticipate a re-evaluation by WSRB in November or December. Current staffing levels will likely prevent a score of 3.
- Chief Brett will verify the current price of a Pierce Type-1 engine with the most recent CCFD1 specifications.
- East Wenatchee and Douglas County are aware the department will seek fire protection contracts for 2024.
- Commissioner Castellente plans to seek re-election.

XI. Adjourn – 3:30.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss