

**WENATCHEE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 & DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 12, 2023**

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

Staff: Fire Chief Brian Brett, Deputy Chief Andy Davidson, Battalion Chief Pete Rigelman, and Cindy Blaufuss

- I. Called to Order: 2:00 pm.
- II. Additions and Deletions to Agenda: One item was added to the agenda as new business.
  - Fire Chief Contract Amendment
- III. Public Comments: None.
- IV. Consent Agenda: Commissioner Castellente 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: The technical rescue teams have responded to six major incidents over the last month and the community has expressed gratitude for their efforts.
- VI. Staff Reports:

Administration: Chief Davidson reported the Regional Hazmat Team has 18 members, including 10 members from WVFD. The team responded to two incidents this month; the first was a suspected drug lab and the second was an obsolete X-ray machine and its chemicals. The team was able to mitigate the hazards at both incidents, eliminating the need for an out-of-area team and possible evacuations.

There have also been three State Mobilizations in the area. In all three cases air resources have helped limit the spread and prevent structure loss.

The department received recognition for 18 known CPR saves over the past year.

Full-time staffing at Fire Station 3 prevented a small brush/vehicle fire from spreading to a nearby home. The additional staffing is providing improved continuity of service with Engine 3 backfilling for Engine 1.

IAFF: The Local hosted the Washington State Council of Firefighters Convention in Wenatchee last month. One of their priorities is exploring TIF impacts on the fire service.

The Local participated in a Feed Wenatchee fundraiser, beating the representatives from law enforcement.

Volunteers: Chief Brett reported about one-half of the Volunteer members attended this month's business meeting. Law enforcement's National Night Out is scheduled in August.

VII. Unfinished Business

- Facilities:

Fire Station 1: The department will be requesting quotes to replace the asphalt with concrete and make repairs to the hose tower.

Fire Station 2: Maintenance on the first modular is complete and an ARFF Volunteer has moved into the unit. Now maintenance is underway on one of the apartments.

Chief Brett met with the Port District regarding their proposed TIF. The Port estimates that WVFD will lose \$5.5 million over the 25 years the TIF is in place. The department

may still receive additional tax revenue from personal property in the TIF area. The National Guard would also like to partner with the department for ARFF services.

Former Fire Station 3: Chief Brett attended the Rock Island Council meeting and explained the department intends to keep the former fire station for storage. Paint will be kept on hand to manage graffiti.

Fire Station 3: The generator has been installed. The Open House is scheduled for September 16.

Fire Station 4: HB Hansen replaced the concrete on the west side of the apron. The concrete finishing is disappointing.

Fire Station 11: The department is in the process of registering Stations 11 and 17 with the FAA. Once complete, that designation will be recorded with the City and County.

A one-year lease has been signed with Chelan County Emergency Management.

Fire Station 12: The department is requesting quotes to install a paging system.

Fire Station 13: Would like to upgrade the apron design and install a paging system by this fall.

Fire Station 14: The cameras and alarms are operational at FS14, and the apparatus is being moved back to the station.

Fire Station 17: The hot water heater and water softener have been replaced and the department is requesting bids to replace the valves.

Stemilt: The architects are working on geological surveys, septic location and conceptual drawings. Determining whether the parcel meets the department's needs will likely exceed the original Agreement for \$10,000. Adequate funds are available in the Architect/Engineering line item of the Operations Budget to pay the additional expense.

- Apparatus: Planning for the sale of the dump truck and engine declared surplus in June. The shop is considering a hoist that will allow drive-through access for Type-1 engines.

- Aviation: During June 1MR generated \$70,000 in availability and flight time.

Northwest Helicopter estimates it will cost \$75,000 to complete the 1PR project.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to allocate \$75,000 to complete the 1PR project. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- Personnel: Chief Brett recommends transitioning the Firefighter/Mechanic to a Firefighter/Facilities Technician and hiring another Fleet Mechanic. The Firefighter/Facilities position would be sunset in 2026.

Commissioner de Mestre made a motion to authorize the transition to a Firefighter/Facilities Technician. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion failed.

The Commissioners scheduled a Special Meeting to continue the discussion at 11:00 a.m., on July 19.

- Operations Plan 2023-2024: Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the Operations Plan as presented. There was a second from Commissioner Zimmerman. The Plan was approved.

- Policy Review & Update: Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the policy updates as recommended. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The policies were approved.

VIII. New Business

- Douglas County Fire Protection Agreement: There was a motion from Commissioner Zimmerman to approve the Agreement. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, and the Agreement was approved.
- Interface Systems Benefit Charge Analysis Agreement: Interface Systems can analyze the parcel data to determine whether a benefit charge is a feasible funding mechanism for the department. They are currently calculating all the benefit charge information in Washington State. The analysis can be finished by August; it would be very laborious to complete in-house.

Commissioner Castellente made a motion to approve the Interface Systems Agreement. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The Agreement was approved.

- Fire Chief Contract Amendment: Chief Brett requested an amendment to the contract language so it is similar to the vacation accrual language in the Non-Represented Personnel Policies.

Commissioner Castellente made a motion to amend the vacation accrual language in the Fire Chief Contract. There was a second from Commissioner de Mestre. The amendment was approved.

IX. Other Business and Good of the Order:

- Chief Brett would like to meet with Confluence Health regarding a fire protection agreement. The Commissioners supported a meeting.
- Chief Brett met with the local Microsoft representative regarding staffing at Fire Station 17 and the possibility of negotiating an agreement while their facilities are being built.
- The Department will apply for a grant to purchase bullet-proof vests. Vests would be worn for specific high-risk incidents. The Commissioners support the grant application.
- Chief Brett prepared a summary of potential WVFD comparable departments for the upcoming contract negotiations.

X. Adjourn – 4:43.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Blaufuss