



MINUTES  
Chelan Fire and Rescue  
Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.  
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



**Commissioners in attendance:** Russ Jones and Phil Moller

**Staff in attendance:** Fire Chief Timothy Lemon, Deputy Chief Mark Donnell, Assistant Chief Brandon Asher and District Secretary Carol Kibler.

Chairman Jones announced the flag salute and opened the regular meeting at 4:00 p.m.

**Approve Agenda:** MOTION was made to approve the agenda as submitted the MOTION PASSED.

**Public Comment:**

Lisa Garvich spoke about her support of the fire department and asked that the commissioners consider running the levy lid lift again.

Steve Garvich spoke about the concern of his neighborhood and level of staffing and response time to fighting fires. He would like to see the commissioner's move forward with a plan.

Tom Peters spoke about the levy lid lift and the timing of the lid lift. He stated that when he was a commissioner the board agreed to give the people the choice to vote on the levy. The community has voted and the levy failed. The community has given it's answer.

Jacquelynn Dalton stated she supported the levy lid lift and thinks the community needs to be educated on what the fire department does. She spoke about the youth in our community and responsibility of the combination department to educate and protect our children. She mentioned hearing concern from citizens about firefighter down time, the community needs to know just what a firefighter does. Firefighters are positive role models in the community. She spoke about a car accident she was in and the response and care she received might not have happened if staffing is cut. She spoke about hearing that the department's administration was top heavy. Chief Asher's position is a grant funded position and his role is to find volunteers. She strongly believes the community needs to know more about the fire department. She stated she understands the economics of the community and taxes and people don't want to pay higher taxes but they need to do their homework and get correct information. She supports the fire department and would like to see the current staffing levels stay in the community.

Chairman Jones thanked everyone who came and spoke openly.

**Consent Agenda:**

**MOTION was made to approve the consent agenda as submitted the MOTION PASSED.**

- Revenue and Expenditure Report: February 2018
- Payroll: \$159,354.00 for April 1-30, 2018 Paid: 05-05-2018
- Vouchers for April General Account: Vouchers #17957 – 17968 for 4,810.53; Vouchers #17969 – 17989 for \$12,050.14; Vouchers 17990 – 18012 for \$14,339.27; Vouchers 18013 – 18021 for \$4,373.33.
- Vouchers for April Capital Account: Vouchers #17047 for \$881.50; Vouchers #17048-17050 for \$6,986.69; Voucher 17051 for \$6619.49; Voucher 17052 - 17054 for \$15,112.81.



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- Minutes: April 11, 2018

**Fire Chief Report:**

**Budget:** Chief Lemon reported we received the first installment of California Fire funds in the amount \$63,000 and \$154,000 in property tax. Chief Lemon reported the budget is on track with payment to the consultant and the final bills for snow removal have been paid.

**Emergency Response Report:** Chief Lemon reported April statistics show a 60 increase in emergency responses over last year at this same time. The emergency response report was distributed for review.

Chief Lemon reported the crews have had a busy week responding to a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer fire at Apple Acres Rd. They had back to back calls last night and a brush Fire in Chelan Falls.

**Facilities/Apparatus/Equipment:** Chief Lemon reported the facilities are all fine. Rescue 71 is having a ball joint replaced and Tender 74 had some in house repair work done on its pump. Both units are in service.

**Operations / Fire Prevention / Public Education – DC Donnell:** Chief Donnell reported the crews have completed all of the hose testing for 2018. He is working with them on tactical responses plans.

Chief Donnell reported we are conducting vertical ventilation training using the large ventilation prop located in the back lot of station 71. Washington State Fire Training purchased the training equipment and we are the second group to use it. We will be using the training prop through the end of the month.

**Staffing:** Chief Donnell reported Firefighter EMT Austin Murdock has resigned his position effective May 15, 2018. FF/EMT Murdock is one of the SAFER Grant employees. Chief Donnell has scheduled 3 interviews of qualified applicants for the position. Chairman Jones asked if we had to fill the SAFER Grant Firefighter position. Chief Lemon replied in order to stay in compliance with the FEMA SAFER Grant agreement, we have to have someone in that position.

Chief Donnell reported we currently have 32 volunteer members on the books, not including the 22 new recruits.

**PUB Ed:** Chief Donnell reported we participated in the Earth Day Event and held an open house at station 71 at the same time. The event was successful and he complimented and thanked C shift and those who turned out to help.

Next on the schedule of events is the Annual Pancake breakfast at station 71 and Annual bike fair at Walmart.



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**Volunteer Services – AC Asher:** Chief Asher reported we currently have 30 new recruits; 22 Chelan Fire and Rescue, 6 Chelan Fire District 8 and 2 Douglas County Fire District 4.

Chief Asher reported the regional training at Columbia Breaks in Entiat was successful. Firefighter/EMT Adam Jones was the lead instructor for the recruits. Among the participants were local fire departments throughout Chelan and Douglas County, DNR, USFS, Chelan County Sheriff's and a DNR Helicopter crew.

Chief Asher reported the recruits will be participating in a structural firefighter fundamentals training over the weekend with Chief Lemon as the lead instructor.

Chief Asher reported we are receiving the new structural firefighting gear for the recruits and issuing it as it comes in.

**Explorers/Junior Firefighters:** Chief Asher reported the program is a work in progress. Lt Sherman and FF/EMT Jones attended the Chelan High School career day this month.

**Firefighters Association Report:** President Dan Crandall reported a balance of \$42,326.00 and an ending balance of \$36,628.00.

The association donated \$5,000 to the 911 Spirit Memorial, \$500 to the Washington Burn Foundation, \$500 to the Chelan Food Bank and purchased 120 sets of bike lights donated to Chelan Bike Rodeo.

The executive committee recommended drafting guide lines setting priorities for expenditures. The emergency assistance members looked at emergency air bags and found one system that they liked. They made their recommendation to the membership and were approved to purchase emergency air bags in the near future.

The Auxiliary is busy planning the logistics of the Annual Pancake breakfast scheduled June 2. We have received donations from the community for the food; IGA, Blue Berry Hill and Apple Cup.

The Association has been in review of purchasing a cover for the parade truck.

The Association has tabled any further discussion on the water rescue equipment.

President Crandall reported receiving thank you cards from; 911 Spirit Memorial and Lake Chelan Hospital for the donation of the bike lights.

The association is considering purchasing 4 defibrillators to replace the ones that will soon expire.



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**Unfinished Business:**

**Filling Commissioner Position 2 vacancy:** Chairman Jones stated he would like to appoint Nan Bolomey. Commissioner Moller stated he would like to appoint Jay Witherbee. Chairman Jones stated he would not consider Jay Witherbee due to his choice of information he released during the fire levy lid lift election as it was one sided when discussing and reporting Fire department information on the radio. And, Jay Witherbee wrote on the application "don't appoint me if the levy passes." Commissioner Moller disagreed with Chairman Jones stating Jay Witherbee has his best interest in the community. Chairman Jones stated he has worked with Nan Bolomey, she is open minded, a good negotiator, mediator and not coming in with an agenda. She has back ground in the medical field and a master's degree in nursing. Commissioner Moller stated he had a great conversation with Jay Witherbee and Jay wants to work on the budget/financials and community rebuilding. Chairman Jones stated the Board of Fire Commissioners can pass this on to County Commissioners or have a special meeting within the 90 day period. The Board of Fire Commissioner agreed to schedule a Special Meeting Wednesday May 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. to further address this issue. The agenda will be to appoint a Fire commissioner to fill Position 2's vacancy and setting a date for the Long range Planning Meeting.

**Oath of Office – Appointed Commissioner – Tabled**

**Results of the Election to Lift the Fire Levy Lid:** Chief Lemon reported the votes casted 814 yes at 39.8% and 1031 no at 60.2% for a total 2045 votes. Registered voters in the fire district 4097. Results the levy failed!

Chairman Jones stated judging by the conversations he had with members of the public there was not a clear understanding of how the fire department runs. It was a terrible time to run a fire levy lid lift, he was disappointed with the information that was broadcasted out to the community and he was not surprised it did not pass. Chairman Jones stated he will not run a levy lid lift again this year until we can increase the education in the community and this may take some time to get it right. The votes were cast and we need to take a step back. He thinks we got too far ahead, that we are a volunteer department supported by some career staff and he believes that is the wishes of the community.

Commissioner Moller agrees the numbers showed the results. We aren't going to make everyone happy if we allow this to go out to the community again we will get land blasted.

Chairman Jones stated the firefighters have done great improvements and will be missed, a huge loss but the community voted no.



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**New Business: Resolution 2018-04, Commissioner Board Meetings time change: MOTION was made to approve Resolution 2018-04 to change the time to 5:30 p.m. MOTION PASSED.**

**Long Range Planning Meeting:** Tabled to the May 23, 2018 meeting

**Medical Responses:** Chairman Jones asked to have this added to the agenda and asked why does the fire department respond to medical aid calls and is it necessary. Chairman Jones stated that with the community placing the NO vote we may be looking at cutting services and this may be one of them.

Commissioner Moller is in favor of reviewing the idea but needs more time and research. The discussion will continue at the long range planning meeting.

**Special Event:**

- 05/11/2018, 1800 hr, Active Shooter Mitigation for Civilians (High School)
- 05/21, 22, 23, 24, 25/2018, Fire Chief Conference Kennewick,
- 06/02/2018, Commissioner Conference Chelan.
- 06/09, 10/2018, Recruit Class to North Bend Fire Academy.
- 06/14/2018, Recruit Class 2018-01 Graduation, Station 71
- 06/22/2018, VFW FF/EMT Adam Jones, Firefighter of the Year, Bremerton
- 06/24/18 Memorial Day Parade – Honoree of Pierce County fallen Sherriff family

**Commissioner Comments:** No action to be taken. Discussion regarding five person/position Board of Fire Commissioner. Neither Commissioner liked the idea. Discussion regarding the County Sherriff Department's marine patrol.

**Executive Session:** RCW 42.30.110 (1) (h) To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office and/or RCW 42.30.140 Contract, and wage benefit negotiations.

The Board of Fire Commissioners went into Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1) (h) at 5:06 p.m. for 30 minutes.

Chairman Jones came out of session at 5:36 p.m. announced another 30 minutes was needed.

The Board of Fire Commissioners ended executive session at 6:06 p.m. There was no announcement or report.

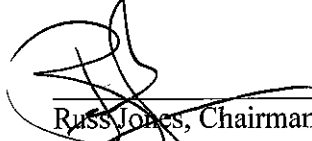
**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 6:06 p.m.



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Chelan County Fire District 7 Commissioners:

  
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Russ Jones, Chairman

  
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Phil Moller, Commissioner

ATTEST:   
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Carol A. Kibler, District Secretary