



WORKSHOP MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



Commissioners in Attendance: Russ Jones, Phil Moller and Jay Witherbee

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

Others in Attendance: see sign in sheet

Chairman Jones announced the Flag Salute and opened the workshop at 6:00 p.m.

Long Range Planning Discussion:

Chief Lemon briefed the Fire Commissioners about the Long Range Plan and that we are here to discuss the future needs of the fire district.

Chief Lemon reviewed the 2019 draft budget. Revenues are estimated as follows:

- Carry over end of 2018 year: \$745,669.34
- 2019 Tax Collected Revenue: \$2,012,923
- New Construction: \$50,600
- Misc. revenues \$53,000

Transfers to cover capital improvements and payment for the bonds (principle and interest) is \$143,275 principle and interest.

The District's projected assessed value will be \$2,147,628,040. Rate per \$1000 will be at \$0.92. Chief Lemon reported we typically receive the preliminary values from the County in late October.

Chief Lemon reviewed the perpetual expenditures. The goal is for the expenses to not exceed the tax revenue and use the misc. revenue to build our capital reserves each year.

Chief Lemon reported the administrative staff reviewed the 2019 budget and placed the following capital item in the 2019 draft budget:

- Computer replacements \$6,000.
- Structural Protection Gear \$5,000.
- Wildland Protection Gear \$2,000.
- Command Vehicles IPADs for Mapping and Tactical Plans \$4,000.
- Training Facility improvements \$5,000.
- Station 73 Potable water connections \$2,000.
- AED replacement \$6,931.64
- SAFER Grant \$48,000 new bunker gear for new recruits.



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Additional Capital improvements that were discussed, but are unfunded are:

- Continuing the Storz adapters program in the tone of \$6,000 to \$10,000 a year
- \$6,000 for a new PPV Fan
- \$5,000 for fire nozzles
- A new Sparky the Fire Dog suit for \$3,000
- A snow plow estimated at \$7000.
- Carpet replacement downstairs Station 71 (main floor).
- Painting the crews quarters
- Purchase of a fueling station for Station 71
- Station generator for Station 74 at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

A new staff vehicle was discussed. This vehicle was budgeted for in 2018 in the amount of \$40,000. The purchase was held off after the fire levy lid lift failed to ensure the 2019 draft budget would be good. All present concurred to move forward with the vehicle purchase.

Chief Lemon reviewed options for maintaining an on-duty staff of four combat qualified Firefighters in 2019. Four combat firefighters are needed to meet the WAC 296-305 2 in 2 out rule and to provide for firefighters safety during other emergencies. Discussion included:

- Increasing the Volunteer Firefighter Stipend position from one 24 hour position to two 24 hour positions.
- Keeping one of the Safer Grant firefighter positions to fill Kelly days, vacation and sick leave as needed.

Chairman Jones asked that we review the level one EMS calls and why the fire department is responding to those type calls. Chairman Jones isn't sure it is necessary that we respond and thinks maybe we should wait for EMS to ask us to respond. Chief Lemon was strongly opposed to not responding on medical aid calls as life safety is our number one priority followed by property protection and environmental protection.

Chairman Jones thinks we need to do a better job of educating the community on why we do what we do.

Commissioner Moller stated he had heard the same comment about responding to medical aid calls but he agreed with Chief Lemon that we should not stop responding to medical aid calls. Commissioner Moller stated the medical aid call may turn into something different. Commissioner Moller thinks there are other areas to review.



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Chief Lemon discussed the blending of Lake Chelan EMS and EMS and Chelan Fire and Rescue into one agency. Chelan Fire and Rescue will have two 24 hour employee on each day supported by from home volunteer firefighter and call back firefighters. If we combine the two agencies the Lake Chelan Valley would have six cross trained emergency response personnel that could address fire and EMS incidents. Two assigned to Station 52 in Manson and four assigned to Station 71 in Chelan. All on duty emergency responders would be able to provide an all risk coverage in the both fire districts. This would provide better coverage and be cost effective for the three departments and the tax payers.

Commissioner Witherbee agreed with the regional approach but stated the community is protective of those agencies and it won't be easy to start the conversation.

The discussion continued regarding combining Lake Chelan EMS with the Fire Departments, ending with consideration of requesting a joint meeting between Fire and Hospital Commissioners.

LRP Workshop: Wednesday July 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at station 71 training room.

Chairman Jones asked that the next workshop agenda would be to set goals/direction for 2019.

- Staffing Model options.
- Consider levy lid lift pros and cons and the impacts of doing it or not.
- Standards of coverage – expectations of response times and type of work performed to all calls.
- Apparatus replacement
- Equipment replacement
- Programs that may need to be decreased
- Capital purchases
- Report on stipend shift response, how many volunteers will participate

Volunteer preference points when hiring full time staff was discussed. Chief Lemon noted that the applicants have to be able to pass the test before preference points can be awarded.

Public relations and community communications was discussed. How do we improve? Staff is already working with a volunteer group of PIOs (Public Information Officers). Do we need a part time Public Relations person?

Chief Lemon asked the board what vision they have for the fire department.

- Chairman Jones stated he would like to see the department as a volunteer department supported by career staff.



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- Commissioner Witherbee stated the pulse of the community spoke and voted no on the levy lid lift. He stated the task force executive summary concluded with the idea of regional efforts and he supports that idea. The community needs to feel the cut backs and we need to communicate those service cuts to the citizens, while promoting the successes of the fire department.
- Commissioner Moller stated he wants to maintain the level of service with the current funding and review combining agencies and resources.

Adjournment:

There was no more business before the board the workshop ended at 7:55 p.m.


Chelan County Fire District 7 Commissioners:



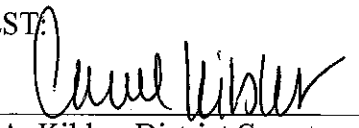
Russ Jones, Chairman



Phil Moller, Commissioner



Jay Witherbee, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Carol A. Kibler, District Secretary