



MINUTES
Long Range Plan
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 1:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



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

Staff in attendance: Fire Chief Tim Lemon, Deputy Chief Mark Donnell, Faye Barker

Others in attendance: See sign in sheet

Chairman Jones announced the Flag Salute and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core values: Chief Lemon introduced the Task Force Members that were present and reviewed Chelan Fire and Rescue's Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core values.

New Construction: Chief Lemon reported that there is a possibility of 2000 new residential homes that could be built within our jurisdiction based upon the pre-apps and building permits.

Community Risk Assessment: The district responds to the following emergency 911 calls: wildland fires, structure fires, vehicle fires, marine rescue, drownings, Basic Life Support (BLS), High/Low angle rescue, hazardous material spill and a number of other type calls for assistance from our citizens.

What other services are needed that we may want to consider providing? Are there any changes/improvements need to our current services? Are there any services that we should cut back on or quit providing? These questions were discussed at length with a general consensus that all the current programs are appropriate and to the degree needed for our community. Further discussion was had on BLS EMS response. Commissioner Jones and Chief Lemon had met with Lake Chelan EMS and Lake Chelan Community Hospital representatives concerning Chelan Fire and Rescue's response to medical emergencies. Everyone agree that we should continue to respond to all EMS calls as we have been since 2010. Failure to continue to provide that level of care to the community could create liability if we stopped and did not have a just reason. Other items that warrant CFR responding to EMS calls included Medic 3171 not being available and our citizens having to wait for Medic unit from Manson. A number of the medical calls require the special skills and equipment from CFR that are not provided by the ambulance company, such as motor vehicle extrication, high/low angle rescue, marine and drowning calls as well as the manpower needed on more serious medical emergencies like a CPR call and respiratory arrest etc. It was identified that Lake Chelan EMS will need to go for an EMS Levy in the near future. The question was raised, what happens if it fails again? Can the hospital absorb the cost to keep it operating? Is CFR in a position to ensure patient transport to the emergency room can be maintained? Chief Lemon stated that CFR has the manpower and skill level to conduct BLS transport, but will have to upgrade for ALS skills and currently does not have transport capable units, but that current units would most likely be made available.

Commissioner Jones brought up two areas for discussion:

- One is staffing levels
- Two what can the district do to improve the insurance rating for the city.

Chief Lemon explained that we are within 50 points of a Fire Protection Rating of 5 for the city of Chelan. City of Chelan is currently a 6 Fire Rating Class. One of the big areas the WSRB indicated we need improvement in is fire inspection with certified fire inspectors. Chief Lemon has talked to the city about this in the past and the city has not shown a lot of interest in addressing this issue. Fire inspections are the responsibility of the city's Fire Marshal's office.



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Chief Lemon is not sure what the difference in insurance premiums would be from a Fire Class Rating of a 6 to a 5. Kirk McGovern (Citizen Task Force Member) stated he would ask his insurance company about the potential cost saving since he owns commercial building in the city limits.

Another Fire Prevention issue discussed was staff stopping annual hydrant maintenance. We have done these in the past due to no one else doing them and wanting to make sure they work. The operation and maintenance of fire hydrants actually falls to the water purveyor or the municipality that owns the water system. Due to the decrease in manpower, we will not be conducting hydrant maintenance this year, we will notify the water purveyors and provide them with the inspection and maintenance requirements.

Staffing was discussed at length. The question raised was adding additional firefighters and where the money would come from. Chief Lemon explained that the annual costs to run the department and paying the bonds has been budgeted within the annual tax dollars. Any extra revenues have been used for capital Improvements and provide funding for the apparatus replacement account and emergency reserve account.

Fire Levy Lid Lift discussion was held regarding when in the future to go back to the voters for a fire levy. Discussion included when, what amount would be needed, what that amount would pay for and how to get the message out so that the Fire Levy would pass.

Commissioner Witherbee asked about holding a round table with our partner agencies to discuss how we collectively can better serve all of our tax payers. The Fire Commissioners agreed to open that door and work towards hosting a meeting with the Commissioners of Chelan County Fire District 5, Chelan County Fire District 8, Douglas County Fire District 4 and Lake Chelan hospital. Commissioner Moller would like to have this scheduled sooner than later. A meeting date of 3/7/19 from 9 – 11 a.m. was suggested.

The Capital budget was discussed. Commissioner Witherbee would like to see a complete capital replacement package. Chief Lemon will update the apparatus replacement schedule. A variable will include whether the district buys new or used apparatus.

Commissioner Jones provided an update on the Rescue Boat. Used motors will cost \$8,000 plus \$600 for shipping. A request to the Volunteer Association to help with this cost has been made. A local marina has offered to install the motors. Sunset marina has said the boat could be moored at their location. Douglas County Fire District #4 has a radio that they will provide. The electronics are going to be picked up in Tumwater later next month. With those items in place the boat is operational. The next step will be to decide on firefighting capabilities. Possible grant money could be applied for also. The pieces seem to be falling into place for the Rescue Boat.

Discussion was held regarding the new subdivisions and what is being done to ensure they are safe against wildfires. Chief Lemon explained that we do not have the authority to impose codes and or restrictions on subdivisions. The City of Chelan's Building Department/Fire Marshal's office and the Chelan County have that authority. Both are working on up-dating the wildland codes.

Facilities discussion included ideas for updating our five stations. The question of what we want to see over the next 5 years was discussed. Do we want to maintain what we have or do we want to see improvements. Bonds were discussed to fund the improvements.



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A Resident Firefighter program was discussed along with what station or stations this program would best serve the community out of.

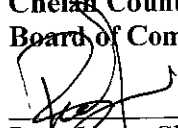
Commissioner Jones stated part of the LRP process is to plan for the future, put sleeping quarters at one or more of the stations within five to seven years should be considered. All the things we have been discussing are part of the LRP process. Having conversations about contracting service between partner agencies, nailing down capital replacement needs and succession planning should be part of the planning process.

Lt. Sherman commented about past and current staffing levels and the clear values of both. Being a combination fire department we all need to be work together. With an increase in career firefighters, it could displace the volunteers if we are not careful. Adding a resident program could have the same effect. While we all would like to see an increase in staffing, we also have to preserve our home volunteer program to ensure the manpower levels are there when needed. We have to maintain a strong combination fire department.

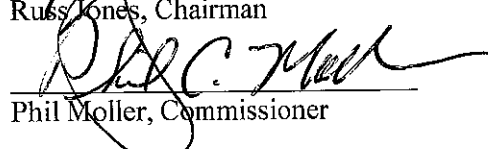
Commissioner Jones suggested we have another long range planning meeting, possibly in the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

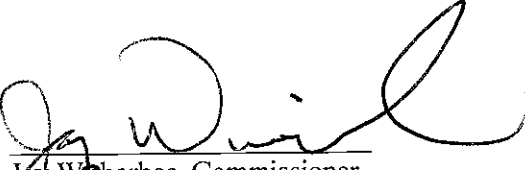
Chelan County Fire District 7
Board of Commissioners:



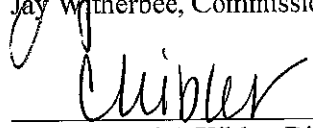
Russ Jones, Chairman



Phil Moller, Commissioner



Jay Witherbee, Commissioner



Attest: Carol A Kibler, District Secretary

Minutes Prepared by Faye Barker