



**MINUTES**  
**Chelan Fire and Rescue**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 2021 starting at 1:00p.m.**  
**232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA**  
**Special Meeting**



*The CFR Board of Commissioners will conduct the meeting in person at the fire station, you are welcome to join via Zoom. The public is welcome to join by following this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87284665516> Meeting ID: 872 8466 5516 or dial +1 253 215 8782*

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Phil Moller, Russ Jones, and Karyl Oules

**Other in Attendance:** Fire Chief Mark Donnell, Administrative Assistant Karla Mendoza, Troy Keene, Tom Watson

**Flag Salute:**

**Meeting Called to Order:** Chairman Moller called the meeting to order at 13:00.

**Business:** Discuss the Citizens Advisory Group

**Public Comment:** None

Commissioners Discussion:

- Commissioner Moller: Communication between the districts to combine services with Manson District 5.
- Commissioner Oules: does not oppose a levy lid lift and would like a discussion on levy amounts because we are not desperate for money.
- Commissioner Jones: does not know what it will be in it for Manson Dist. 5 to "join" Chelan. Chelan and Manson have always been very territorial. What incentive does Manson (5) have to get on board, they collect 0.74 cents to \$1000.00, Chelan is higher. It does not mean cannot be done, however that is a long-term project, like 4–5-year goal. Short term can be combined efforts like training.
- Commissioner Moller: wants to see opportunities open with the admin, see conversations happen with Manson's Commissioners about sharing resources. Long term goals can be an option of 5 years from now, because we all have the same needs for short term.
- Commissioner Jones: We need to find out what are Manson's needs or wants.
- Chief Donnell: We already have Mutual Aid, Extended Stipend program to Chief Baker in Manson, Both Manson and Chelan have a hard time keeping people engaged, if reserve members are to stay engaged, they will be required to maintain at least the minimum requirement of training, share one training facility, for example our burn box.
- Commissioner Moller: Wants to explore functional consolidation (shared resources) all areas of training that can be accommodated between both districts in order to create efficiencies between both districts.
- Commissioner Jones: Suggested the two Board of Commissioners get together and have a meeting.
- Chief Donnell: Discussed some options:
  - Shared Resources
  - Volunteer Retention
  - Recruit Training



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- Chief Donnell will be writing to our Senators and House Representatives to see if it will help us get the SAFER Grant. We will know some time in August 2021 if we are approved for the grant.
- Commissioner Jones: would like to see a Joint Marine Exercise with Manson District 5, and Chelan County Sheriff's Department, and Lake Chelan EMS.
- Commissioner Oules: Find a time to all meet with the Commissioners of Manson.
- Chief Donnell: Manson's levy is up in 2023, and they will have to go after another levy.
- Commissioner Jones: Spoke to a Hospital Board member they will not give EMS up. EMS is so integrated with Hospital, Home Health, Medicare, how they bill Medicare, how they receive grants, per board member. Patients would lose connection with doctors and the integration of home health.
- Chief Donnell: Concentration should be on a functional consolidation with EMS that would not mean losing its identity or revenue to the hospital. The home health process that is in place would not be lost. The focus must always be on providing the most efficient and cost-effective service to our community.
- Commissioner Moller: Any consolidation would be to augment the program, and not to take away from it. To have an ambulance roll out from one of our bays again would be huge, since a lot of the time CFR7 crews are first on scene.
- What are our advantages, and how can we create a better response emergency response agency?
- Commissioners agreed that Chief Donnell and one Commissioner should meet with CEO of Lake Chelan Health and EMS Director Ray Eickmeyer in the following weeks.
- It was a consensus by the committee that the department was under funded and needed to start at a \$1.10.
- Commissioner Jones: How do we tell this story? The key part is to look at that future, asking for what we need for a long term, and not come back with frequent repeat requests.
- Commissioner Oules: Would like to avoid asking for \$1.10, and in 3 years go out to the voters and say guess we did not figure it out right and ask for more money. Asked Mr. Watson what the most important thing he had learned about the fire department after sitting in the Citizens Advisory Group. His response was that if Chelan Fire and Rescue is to have not the best but simply an adequate fire district it must have more funding. He stated that a selling point to the public is that this would be an additional .30 cents to what they currently pay now. It is important to keep your equipment up to date or you do not have a fire department.
- Commissioner Oules then she asked Mr. Watson if he had to prioritize where to use these funds: His response:
  - 3 more Firefighter: You cannot go into a burning house with two firefighters. There are repercussions to everything.
  - Equipment: You cannot get there if you do not have working equipment, new or used not in good working order.
  - Capital: gear, facility needs, etc.... all this is already in the works





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- Commissioner Jones: In the next ten years we will have high number of new constructions in our county.
- Chief Donnell: talked about MRSC outline that breakdowns how levy's bring money into districts and organizations. If levy passes at a 1.10 it is predicated that it begins to erode as the years march on. This levy would allow us to keep seasonal for 10 years and be back down to \$0.80 at 10 years.
- Commissioner Oules: Comfortable at a \$1.10, however wants priorities spelled out clear and simple.
- All Commissioners are on the same page. A divided Board of Commissioners will not pass a levy.
- Commissioner Moller: asked about asking for a 1.10 for 6 years,
- Audience Comment: Barry: Do not ask for short term, go out and ask for what you need.
- Chief Donnell: A lid lift forecast is for 10 years. A raises or permanent levies can only hold for 6 years then they drop off. The levy we are asking for is for 1.10 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year then it begins to erode thereafter for the following 10 years. This will cover expenses for fleet, firefighters, seasonal firefighters.
- Tom Watson: Selling point for this levy is that it will cost you \$10.00 more a month for 500,000.000, and after the first year that would start to trend down.
- Commissioner Jones: Keep in mind that the demographics of people are changing here in Chelan. The story must be short and to the point.
- Commissioner Oules: Is the Board pushing too hard to get it on the ballot for the Fall?
- Chief Donnell: Filing deadline is August 3<sup>rd</sup> for the November 12<sup>th</sup> General.  
Recommended having a discussion with the Citizens Advisory Group before making this decision. A grass roots group will have to be the selling group of this levy. The one out there and spreading the word of this levy.
- Board: Go to the Citizens Advisory Group and ask their opinion on when to run this levy.
- Board Direction to Chief: Get questions regarding functional consolidations answered from Manson Dist. 5 and Lake Chelan EMS before we go to voters – (Manson) what areas could be worked together on, (EMS)- Functional consolidation if EMS back into Station
- Commissioner Oules: Would like to not hire anyone until we figure out our future with EMS. Chief Donnell stated that with continued funding for seasonal firefighters and more members signing up for stipend program we have some flexibility (1 year).
- Commissioner Moller: Asked about backfill of career firefighters when they call in sick. Chief Donnell stated that if a career staff member calls in sick, another career member gets called in. Per Local Agreement there is to be a minimum of one rated officer on duty at all times. The local understands the need for people and staff, they have allowed us to have the seasonal firefighter fill those openings.
- Board of Commissioners: Look at the \$1.10 and look to see when levy should be pursued and when we can get EMS.

Proposed to move next meeting time from 15:00 to 17:30. Right after the Citizens Advisory Group Meeting.



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**Adjournment:** There was no more business before the board the meeting closed at 14:15.

**Chelan County Fire Protection District 7  
Board of Commissioner's:**

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Chairman, Phil Moller

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Commissioner, Russ Jones

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Commissioner, Karyl Oules

  
Attest: District Secretary Carol Kibler