



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Special Meeting
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 starting at 3:00p.m.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



Roll Call: Chairman Phil Moller, Commissioner Karyl Oules and Commissioner Russ Jones

Staff in Attendance: Fire Chief Mark Donnell, Assistant Fire Chief Brandon Asher, District Secretary Carol Kibler, Captain FF/EMT Tyee Zacher, FF/EMT's Stephanie Preheim, Troy Keene and Joe Ekstrom.

Others in Attendance: Richard Uhlhorn – via ZOOM

Call to order: Chairman Moller called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Business:

Discussion for levy lid lift.

- Commissioner Oules asked if the school was running a bond or M&O?
Answer: The school will run an M&O in the Spring of 2022.
- Commissioner Oules - Yes, we need a levy lid lift and is leaning to run it in the spring. People are asking what will we get for the money?
- Chief Donnell the levy lid lift will hire 3 more firefighters, put \$250,000 a year into capital apparatus fund, replace 2 engines and surplus the old ones, maintain 2 seasonal firefighter positions and continue to maintain operations and keep up with inflation for the next 10 years.
- Commissioner Jones – we are not building fire stations the \$1.10 is conservative.
- Chairman Moller – we brought in 17 people from the community to help the commissioners make a decision. They came back with a clear decision and there is no doubt we will run a levy lid lift.
- Chief Donnell - to run the ballot in the general election (November) we would need to file the resolution by August 3, 2021. Chief Donnell recommends the board approve the resolution by June's commissioner meeting. A draft resolution can be reviewed between now and June.
- Chairman Moller - Yes, we agree to run the levy, the question is when?
- Chief Donnell – the Community Advisory Group (CAG) was given options to review; the consensus was to run a levy. The CAG are representatives of the community they are ready to move forward. If the board delays the momentum the group will dissolve. The CAG will move to a campaign group and keep moving forward.
- Chairman Moller – we will make final decision next week at board meeting.
- Chief Donnell – what is the meeting today for? Will you run it in the Fall or Spring?
- Commissioner Jones is in favor of running levy in November. The momentum of the group will continue, if we go to long the people will lose interest.
- Delaying into spring we would not receive funding until 2022. We can bet house assessments in the spring are going to likely be greater and if we wait a year, it is uncertain what the housing market will be.
- Commissioner Jones is in agreement of the \$1.10 levy.
- **Commissioner Oules MOTIONED to APPROVE the \$1.10 levy and make the decision to run the levy by the June 2021 commissioner meeting.**
- Chairman Moller asked Commissioner Oules why wait to the spring?



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- Commissioner Oules – Don’t want to rush the process. People they don’t care when its run. I’m good for running in the fall and in agreement of the \$1.10. We need to get a lot of people in place to run the campaign, do we need more time?
- Chairman Moller – if we run the campaign now, 5-6 months or we wait and its 16 months we would lose momentum.
- Commissioner Jones agrees to run the levy in November and by August, we could pull it if we see it failing in the community.
- Chief Donnell – the resolution goes to the election office in August for general election. The target date would be set for November election. The next step is what do you want the CAG to work on?
- Chairman Moller – the CAG has great people to get the message out.
- Chief Donnell – by setting the date this gives the CAG a target.
- Commissioner Jones – if things are not coming together, we can pull back if we need to.
- Chief Donnell – we have had a successful process with the CAG and the purpose of the CAG is they will be doing the bulk of the campaign work.
- Commissioner Oules – Failing the levy is not in my wheelhouse.
- Chief Donnell – we will look at what was done in the past and not repeat. We have a strategic plan and we reached out to the CAG; they came up with the information gathered. We are at a point the group has a clear sustainable message.
- **Commissioner Jones MOTIONED to APPROVE a \$1.10 levy lid lift for the 2021 November general election. The MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- The CAG meets May 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
- The Commissioner’s Meeting May 19, 2021 will change the time to 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Moller closed the special meeting at 3:19 p.m. to go into Executive Session for 15 minutes.

Executive Session: RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) *To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.*

The commissioners needed 5 more minutes at 3:34 p.m.

The commissioners came out of Executive Session at 3:39 p.m. – No action was taken.

Adjournment: There was no more business before the board the meeting closed at 3:40 p.m.

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

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Carol Kibler, District Secretary