



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 3:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



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

Proposed Chelan Fire and Rescue agenda pending Board approval.

Roll Call: Chairman Phil Moller, Commissioner Russ Jones and via Zoom call

Commissioner Karyl Oules

Staff in Attendance: Fire Chief Mark Donnell, Secretary Carol Kibler and FFEMT Troy Keene.

Others in attendance: John Olsen, Ron Simmons, Dan Crandall, Anne Clark, Steve Clark, Larry Peabody, John Corbin, Bill Bassett and Marcia Holmdahl.

Regular Meeting Call to Order: Chairman Moller opened the meeting at 15:00

Flag Salute:

Approve Agenda: MOTION to APPROVE the agenda as submitted the MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Richard Uhlhorn stated he sent an email to Commissioner Oules and Chairman Moller about the rumor of contracting with Fire District 5 Fire Chief Arnold Baker. He had not heard back from Chairman Moller and Commissioner Oules relied that "he should follow the rumor." He spoke with Fire Chief Arnold Baker to find out if it was true or not. Mr. Uhlhorn stated "that as a media person he would expect to hear back from the commissioners when emails are sent to them."

Consent Agenda: MOTION was made to APPROVE the consent agenda as submitted the MOTION CARRIED.

- Revenue and Expenditure Report: July 2021
- Payroll: June 22-July 26 Paid 08-05-2021 \$185,214.54
- General Account Vouchers: Transactions #826 -834 for \$6,407.28, #836-842 for \$2,404.69, #857-885 for \$18,108.58.
- Capital Account Vouchers: Transactions #855-856 & 961 for \$4,735.18
- Minutes: July 28, 2021 and August 2, 2021

Fire Chief Report:

Chief's Update

Chelan Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioner's Meeting – August 18, 2021

2021 Budget & Financials:

- July financials have been reviewed with the 2021 Budget spent at 53% (budget target – 58%).
- Staff will be moving forward with a lateral Firefighter/EMT hiring process to fill the position open from the resignation of FF/EMT Adkison. Open application period will be from September 1st through the end of October. Interviews, testing, and conditional offer to be completed before Thanksgiving. Employee start date will be January 1st.
- I am working on the 2022 Budget Proposals (with and without levy passage) with staff and will have the First *DRAFT* proposals for Board review at the September 15th meeting.

Emergency Response Reports:

- July Incident Response Report shows 145 calls for emergency service, our highest July call volume. Our average call volume for July is 123 calls. Rescue/EMS responses



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accounted for 64.8% of total calls with 42.2% of those non-transport (includes patients who died at scene) or patient transported POV.

- Major incidents for July:
 - 7/01: Low-angle Rescue/MVA, Orondo
 - 7/13: Red Apple Fire, Wenatchee
 - 7/15: Brush Fire, 289 Hidden Lane
 - 7/24: Paraglider Accident, Chelan Butte
 - 7/30: Brush Fire, 16445 S. Lakeshore Road
 - 7/31: MVA with Injury, US 97A, MM 237
- July turnout and response times (primary apparatus at Station 71) are within established service delivery goals as set out in SOG 010. Times for outlying stations are still outside of 90th percentile.
- The district came close to meeting our service goals for establishing an Effective Work Force as established by SOG 010 for structure/building and wildland/brush fires.
- Total fire loss for July was \$0.00.

Operations:

- Update on 25 Mile Fire: currently at 7200 acres with 0% containment, 1 confirmed residence lost with several out buildings, working on confirmation of 4 other structures. We currently have 300 personnel assigned to this fire with the IMT Type 1 Team coming in tomorrow and taking over the fire at 0600 on Friday. We are staffing a structure protection strike team Level 3 under AC Asher that has been assigned to the day shift. CCSO EM has evacuations in place from First Creek State Park to 25 Mile Creek and on First Creek (from end of road to Navarre Coulee.) Chelan County Commissioners have declared a State of Emergency for this event which will make it easier to allocate county resources and with the number of homes threatened (as well as the lack of available resources – personnel) we have requested FMAG through FEMA.
- Reminder to the Board: We are currently in one of the busiest fire seasons to date and are watching resource allocation to ensure adequate coverage within the fire district. Firefighting resources throughout the Western United States are being tax to critical levels with the current fire operations and the forecast does not improve for the rest of the season. We have resources from North Carolina, Alaska, and Florida on this incident because of all of the fire activity in the western United States. This is the reason why we participate in mobilization request when we are asked.
- Working on implementation of the Governor's recent proclamation (21-14) which will mandate that all healthcare workers covered under DOH licenses are to be vaccinated for Covid-19 by October 18th. This mandate will cover all members, career and volunteer, with failure to comply possible resulting in loss of DOH certification.
- The generator for Station 74 has arrived and we should have the installation completed before the end of the year. This FAMG Grant completion date has been extended to March 2023.

Community Risk Reduction:

- Chelan County is at EXTREME level for danger which eliminates all open burning in the county. Chiefs will be discussing adding target shooting to these fire restrictions at our September meeting.



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- Completed placement of 5 of the 6 Fire Danger signs. Capt. Rains is still trying to lock down the location for the sign slated for Chelan Falls.
- Board reminder: The open house at Station 71 is scheduled for October 2nd. More details will follow as they develop.

Apparatus Status:

- T-71 is currently out of service for pump repairs. John hopes to have this back in service next week
- John continues to work on the 2nd M-1083 conversion.

All other apparatus are in service at their assigned stations.

Assistant Chief Report: Assistant Fire Chief Brandon Asher was on assignment at the 25 Mile Fire.

- Volunteer Recruitment & Retention / Training

Firefighters Association Report:

President Dan Crandall reported a donation of \$250 which was a reimbursement for the parade truck parts purchased. We had a \$306.48 withdraw, \$500 withdraw for the 2nd quarter donation to Lake Chelan Food Bank and purchased \$125.28 in equipment for marine 71 for a total of \$681.68. We currently have a cash balance of \$32,269.28

Not much activity going on, we met on the 10th and agreed we would help out with setting up for the open house in October. We will purchase the food and beverages for the event. The members also discussed purchasing food and hosting the VFW luncheon in November. We will look at mask requirement and watch it closely.

We had a request for T-shirts, we do have them in inventory and will set up a cash box and box of t-shirts at station 71 for sale.

Unfinished Business:

- **2021 Levy Lid Lift:** Chief Donnell reported that at our last meeting staff asked the board what they wanted to do in regards to presenting information to the public on the upcoming levy lid lift as well as how do we get information out to the public.
Recommendations from staff included:
 - A direct mailing FAQ flyer to voters, estimated cost is \$2,500
 - An informational video. The video would have all 3 commissioners and fire chief making factual statements. The estimated cost is around \$2,500.
 - Public town hall or small group meetings.
- Chief Donnell stated that currently we have the funds available for these projects with focus for September and October.
- Staff is asking for direction from the Board.
- Chairman Moller; maybe having small community meetings that we can actually get out to the public instead of in a room.
- Assistant Chief Asher will have a video script ready for each commissioner before the September 15th meeting.



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- **New Chief Hiring Process:**
 - Fire Chief Donnell stated we have options; a national search, or regional. Or we could promote Assistant Fire Chief Asher to interim fire chief. Chief Asher is operationally the soundest officer and is a known product of the community. His current position as assistant fire chief and volunteer coordinator gives him access to our surrounding agencies. Putting him into interim chief and keep Chief Donnell on an hourly basis to help develop Chief Asher's administrative strengths. Chief Asher is enrolled into the EFO program at the National Fire Academy. This is an executive class and Chief Asher is slated to attend in March. The staff and membership support the idea of Chief Asher as interim fire chief. With where we are in moving forward, we need to focus on the passing of the levy, move into the future, make decisions looking at this option as a valuable one and please consider the option of Chief Donnell to help Chief Asher to be successful.
 - Chairman Moller stated it is another option and he supports it.
- **City of Chelan Fire Protection Services Contract – Update:** Chief Donnell reported that the City is currently reviewing the DRAFT document.
- **Station 75 Short Plat – Update:** Chief Donnell reported that Morgan Picton has indicated that we can move forward with the sale of the short plat at Station 75 with a recommended sale price of \$250k
- **MOTION was made to move forward with the short plat sale with a listing price of \$250,000.00, Commissioner Jones second the MOTION, MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business:

- **2021 Operational Goals (August through December):** Chief Donnell reviewed the 2021 organizational goals and encourages the board to put together and implement a plan for the next fire chief. Revisit the strategic plan and update for future. Come January the items are set up and the transition will run smoothly. This will set the fire district up for success.
- Chief Donnell will send out the draft budgets for the board.

Special Events:

- **KOZI – Community Connection 08-19-2021-** Chief Donnell will be in attendance.
- **September 11 memorial at 11:00 in Cashmere** - this is the 20th anniversary.
- **Chelan Fire & Rescue Open House**, October 2nd, 1000-1400, Station 71
- **Washington Fire Commissioners Association Conference**, October 20th 23rd, Tulalip Convention Center. Chairman Moller will not be able to attend. Commissioner Jones is a yes. Commissioner Oules will need to look at schedule, please call her later in the week.
- The board agreed to not pay for running candidates to attend the WFCFA conference in October.

Board for Volunteer Firefighters: None

Public Comment:



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John Corbin – suggested you have the funds available to put out levy information, maybe one thing to consider is public education messages that are neutral in language. He stated that he is please to hear Chief Donnell talk about an interim Fire Chief succession plan. He thinks it's a great idea. What an opportunity to come together, have a plan, and have Chief Donnell stay on to teach and train, he is a great mentor, John Corbin is excited about the idea. Congratulation to Commissioner Jones for winning the primary election.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Jones is worried about the vaccine mandate. The potential disruption for career and volunteers given the magnitude of the consequences we could easily lose people.

Chief Donnell - we put so much on our people, now we have the vaccination mandate that will most likely push people out. The next challenge will be the booster shot if it is mandated.

Commissioner Jones; thank you to Ron Simmons for volunteering on the 25 Mile fire.

Commissioner Oules; huge thanks for the job being done, impressive and likes seeing what she is reading about the 25 Mile fire.

Commissioner Oules made a MOTION to work toward establishing an interlocal agreement with Chelan County Fire District 5 (Manson).

- Commissioner Jones - what type of interlocal agreement?
- Chairman Moller asked if Commissioner Oules could hear the discussion of today's meeting?
- Commissioner Oules - Yes, can you hear me?
- Commissioner Jones - we actually can't take action in this part of the meeting, but what type of interlocal agreement are you referring to?
- Commissioner Oules - Chairman Moller started working with Manson 5 board and she would like to see that continued and work toward establishing and working with Manson Fire 5.
- Commissioner Jones - can you be more specific of what that agreement would be?
 - Commissioner Oules it's something that, number one until we get there and sit down to see if they are interested. We need to look at what possibilities we have for making this work with Manson fire 5. It might be something we have an interim chief or a different hire, I don't know where this will go until we actually meet. I know where I would like to see this personally go, but this may not be what the majority wants.
- Chief Donnell – if the board chooses to open discussion with Manson Fire 5 board, we can put it on the agenda as an item for the board to vote on and extend the invitation to have a public meeting with both boards in attendance and whatever administrative personnel you choose to be in attendance.
- Commissioner Oules would like to go in that direction and would like to see if Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Moller are in agreement with this to move forward.
- Commissioner Jones – has concerns, City council member John Olsen put together the housing projects that are happening in the area and we will see several thousand homes in the next couple years. Commissioner Jones doesn't think we should be stepping back to a parttime chief with the scale of growth we will be reaching.



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- Commissioner Oules - I hear what you are saying and appreciate your input.
- Chairman Moller – with the developments and discussion in today’s meeting. Chairman Moller would like to move forward with the possibility of promoting Assistant Chief Asher. I have no desire to hire a west side fire chief as this community needs someone diverse in wildland fire and we have that in Chief Asher. Commissioner Moller would like to pursue moving chief Asher into the position. There may be an opportunity to train with Chief Arnold Baker in wildland and train with Chief Donnell for the financials.
- Commissioner Oules – spoke with Chief Asher about the same thing and is not opposed to it. When asking Chief Asher if he felt he had areas of improvement and how we get him trained he didn’t think he could learn anything from Chief Baker. It gave Commissioner Oules a pause. If Chief Asher is our choice, we find the best people to come alongside with him that we as a board find those people.
- Commissioner Moller we have folks in the community those are all good resources.
- Commissioner Oules if the majority of the board is not interested then remove the motion away.
- **Chairman Moller REMOVING the MOTION is fine and thinks Chief Baker is a resource. There has been communication between Chief Baker and Chief Asher.**
- Commissioner Oules; ok, good we will move forward with this.

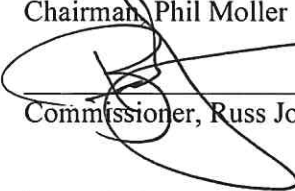
Executive Session: None

Adjournment: There was no more business before the board the meeting closed at 4:08 p.m.

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



Chairman, Phil Moller



Commissioner, Russ Jones

Commissioner, Karyl Oules



Carol Kibler, District Secretary