



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 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.

Flag Salute

Roll Call: Commissioner Phil Moller, Commissioner Karyl Oules and Commissioner Russ Jones, Fire Chief Brandon Asher, District Secretary Carol Kibler, and Admin Assistant Karla Mendoza.

Others in Attendance: Via Zoom: Ruth Keys, Dan Ireland, Stephanie Preheim, Mike Williams, Bill Hash, Brian Thompson. Present: Karl Polzin, Rick Nedrow, Mark Donnell, John Goynes, Ron Simmons, Brandon Fogelson, Wendy Fogelson, Adam Jones, Erika Ward, Marcia Holmdahl, Anne Clark, Steve Clark and Robert Wentland.

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

Appointments

Board Chairman: Commissioner Jones nominated Karyl Oules as chairman. Commissioner Oules said you can forget it and would love for one of you gentleman to do it, you know what you are doing. Commissioner Moller nominated Commissioner Jones; Commissioner Oules seconded the nomination.

Board District Secretary: Commissioner Moller nominated Carol Kibler the board agreed.

Badge Pinning:

Fire Chief Brandon Asher: Commissioner Moller gave Brandon Asher the Fire Chief oath. Alisha Ottrix pinned the badge.

Firefighter/EMT Brandon Fogelson:

Promotion of Recruit Firefighter/LT Ron Simmons

The Firefighter oath was given by Fire Chief Asher, Brandon Fogelson was pinned by his spouse Wendy Fogelson and Ron Simmons by Fire chief Asher. Congratulation!

Approve Agenda: MOTION TO APPROVE the Agenda as submitted the MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment: Rick.Nedrow Congratulated the board on the successful choice of the new Fire Chief Brandon Asher. Congratulation Brandon!

Consent Agenda: MOTION TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda as submitted the MOTION CARRIED.

- Revenue and Expenditure Report: November and December 2021
- Payroll: November 20, 2021 to December 20, 2021 / Paid 01-05-2022 for \$168,413.58
- General Account Vouchers: 12-03-2021 Transaction 1473-1486 for \$8,598.02; 12-07-2021 Transactions 1505-1527 for \$29,908.28; 12-29-21 transactions 1538-1541 for \$6,000.43; 12-31-2021 Transaction 1530-1537 for \$10,160.22.
- Capital Account Vouchers: 12-04-2021 Transactions 1487-1491 for \$3,989.61; 12-16-2021 Transactions 1528 for \$790.91; 12-30-2021 Transactions 1529 for \$1,238.20.
- Minutes: December 2, 15, and 21, 2021

Fire Chief Report: (Chief Asher)

2021 Budget & Financial Report (November and December 2021 Financials)

- Chief Asher reported December 2021 financials as of noon today still haven't been completed by the county.
- November 2021 financials have been reviewed with the 2021 (YTD) with expenditures coming in at 95%
- Staff delayed all significant purchases until 2022.
- Final State Mobilization funds for 2021 total \$207,364. \$116,441 of this is from 2020. In 2022 we are expecting another \$121,183 from unpaid 2021 mobilizations. We hope that with the additional seasonal firefighters and if we potentially fill the 3 career positions before fire season we can continue to remain active in mobilizations.



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



December Emergency Response Report / Operations / Community Risk Reduction / Apparatus Update / Volunteer Recruitment:

- December Incident Response Report shows 86 calls for emergency service with our 10-year average call volume for December at 56 calls. We finished 2021 with a total of 1023 calls for service which is an annual increase of 10.1% over 2020. Rescue/EMS responses accounted for 67.1% of total calls for service with 37.6% of those non-transport (includes patients who died at scene) or patient transported POV.
- Major incidents for December:
 - 12/15, MVC Entrapment with CPR at 400 3rd St.
- December 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 the 90th percentile.
- The district met our service goals for establishing an Effective Work Force as established by SOG 010 for structure/building and wildland/brush fires. To meet this again we rely on our automatic aid partners.
- Total fire loss for December was \$0. Which is what we like to see.

Operations:

- Firefighter EMT Brandon Fogelson is off to a great start to his probationary period.
- Crews did a great job dealing with sprinkler system pipe breaks at multiple buildings throughout the district during the cold streak. Which no doubt stopped thousands of dollars more worth of damage.
- We are still working with Lake Chelan Health on the drive-thru vaccination clinics. We have also been asked if we could spare any EMTs for the mass testing site in Wenatchee. But as of yesterday, a lot of Fire Districts are seeing upticks in first responder positive tests. We have to cover the home base first.
- Chelan Fire and Rescue has even seen an uptick in department members testing positive so we have been adjusting for that. This has created some OT costs.
- FF/EMT Sam Belsky has completed and applied for the 2021 AFG Grant for diesel exhaust removal systems at ST-71, ST-73, and ST-75. The grant request is for \$165,000.00 and, if awarded, will improve health and safety for firefighters.
- Covid has created a delay in the Hazmat regional review process. We are still confident that we will get it and be able to have Technician level training provided by the grant.
- Working on standardizing all county radios to where the first 15 banks will be identical. PM will be done annually by Raycom which will ensure all radios are the same. Having PM done annually allows us to submit for any radio costs. The PM is also paid for through Rivercom

Community Risk Reduction:

- Captain Rains has been asked to do a Community Risk Reduction briefing to the Rotary in April.

Apparatus Status:

- Ladder 71 refurbish project is moving right along with the anticipated completion of the corrosion work sometime in February 2022. We have a few firefighters who have volunteered to drive it home. We will be monitoring the weather closely as it gets close to being ready.
- John continues to work on the 2nd M-1083 conversion and the chassis upgrade on B-71. Both projects are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2022.
- We had a power steering issue with T71 and John has gotten that fixed and the apparatus is back in service.
- All other apparatus is in service at their assigned stations.

Volunteer Recruitment:

- Additions – Entiat Natalia Paz
- Grant 4 Year Final Statistics; Chief Asher handed the commissioners information on the 4-year recruit status. A total of 81 people went through the system under the 4-year grant. Entiat had 31, Orondo had 23.
- Multiple reasons why people didn't finish or stay with the fire department. We did have some people who were hired as full-time firefighters.
- We will submit an amendment to liquidate the remaining funds. Chief Asher would like to inquire about getting a mobile reader board for us and the agencies who participated to continue the recruitment.
- Recruit Academy starts February 4th. We will host some classes and assist with instruction. Finalizing schedule tomorrow with Chelan County Fire District 1.



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



- We're in the process of closing out the grant. The grant ended on 12/7 but we are writing an amendment to assist in reimbursement for delays that were caused due to covid. We will also have excess funds left over that should be distributed so it's equitable to all three departments.

Stipend Coverage

- December 11% final
- January 24% coverage

Training:

- December is typically when we scale back and let our members enjoy the Holidays. They did their quarterly HPCPR and annual harassment training is done.
- January 29th live-fire training on the City Public Works building.
- Review of the 2021 Year End Qualification Status Report. (Presented to the Board for their review and discussion.) We are working on a Career Path for education and certifications. This will benefit the department in line leadership but also succession planning into the future.
- Currently we have: 1 Hazmat technician, 6 rope rescue technicians, 1 confined space technician, all career staff are EMT certified, firefighter 1 and 2 and wildland carded and instructors. 4 Paddy certified rescue swimmers the rest are trained in house. All have wildland red card certifications, 3 engine boss and 2 strike team leaders, and one in training. All NIMS is completed except a couple who just submitted NIMS this week. 4 people on staff have bachelor degrees, 2 have Associate degrees, 2 have Instructor 2 certifications, 5 with fire officer instructor 1, and 3 with fire officer 2 certifications.
- We will start 2022 with 7 career EMT firefighters, 3 seasonal firefighters, and 33 volunteers which 17 are combat qualified.
- We have maintained and are getting a well-qualified group of people.

Firefighters Association Report (Ron Simmons)

President Ron Simmons reported this is his first meeting of 2022 year. Simmons reported an Association letter was sent to 72 members of the district asking them to get involved, as there are a lot of things we do and could use the help and get recognized by the community. Our first meeting of the year was largely attended, and people were curious about the association and what they could do to get involved. We are looking for input to help the group, there are a lot of great things the association is doing and there are new things the association can do to get involved with the community.

Simmons stated one of the things we do is report to the board, is there something the board would like to hear from us regularly or irregularly? Simmons started at this time there is nothing to report.

Commissioner Moller stated he couldn't think of anything at this time, but that Dan Crandall gave a good report monthly.

Simmons stated you are a member of the association and you can assess the information at any time we don't want to waste the board's time giving a report. If something comes up, we can report it at that time.

Unfinished Business:

Assistant Fire Chief Position – Update: Chief Asher reported the application and questionnaire has been posted on our website and the Daily Dispatch. Currently, we are working on getting the evaluators scheduled. February 28th application is due, March 1-4 application review process, March 14th Panel interview with the leadership team out of that we will do the reference and background checks, March 21-23 Fire Chief and Commissioner interview with a conditional offer of employment March 25. The goal is a hire date of May 2, 2022. Chief Asher has had interest and suspects we will get good applications.

2021/2022 Annexations – Update: Chief Asher reported we've been waiting on 11 parcels to be reviewed by Tim Hollingsworth, but we've received no response. So, we've reached out the Erlandson and have asked for an estimate to complete the project. Our goal is to have it completed by no later than June 1, 2022.

- **City of Chelan Fire Protection Services Contract – Update:** Chief Asher reported we received a draft our attorney is in review; we are expecting the final draft and will send it to the City of Chelan.
- **Station 75 Short Plat – Update** Chief Asher reported Morgan Picton continues to work on getting it done.



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



- **Feasibility Study Letter – Chelan County Fire District 5 and Lake Chelan EMS Update:**
Chief Asher asked the question; do we still want to pursue? The hospital is content with the system they operate.
Chief Asher met with Chief Baker for 3 hours last week. One encouraging thing is that Manson has changed their drill night to Tuesday's. We had a good conversation regarding training together. It was a good conversation and we will see how it goes. Chief Asher asked do we want to continue to pursue the feasibility study?

Commissioner Jones stated he attended the meeting that EMS Director Ray Eickmeyer presented information regarding EMS and it is clear EMS is integrated into the hospital. They provide vital programs for the hospital and community. The revenue stream that is provided is vital to the hospital's system. Commissioner Jones stated he has talked with a few of the hospital board members and it is clear they have no intentions of any further discussions.

Commissioner Moller stated he didn't think we ever were interested in the hospital giving up EMS. We just want to house them at our station.

Chief Asher said we can pursue the discussion and talk with them about that.

Commissioner Moller, how did this get to a takeover? Do we need to go back to them letting them know it's about getting them back into the fire station?

Retired Fire Chief Mark Donnell stated the letter addresses the feasibility of finding ways to do things better. Impression was to still meet and discuss better efficiencies. This doesn't mean we want to take over. It's about what can we do together to provide better services. Let's find ways to do things better together. The idea was to not merge organizations. Donnell stated; his impression was from one of the board members was to continue talking about better ways to provide services.

Commissioner Jones stated overall it's good cooperation between CFR7 and the hospital.

Commissioner Oules stated she doesn't know where it went south to a takeover, never heard any of that. And would love to keep communications going and is not interested in a takeover.

Commissioner Moller scheduled a meeting and continue the discussions.

New Business:

- **Out of State Travel – Chief Asher and Captain Rains (National Fire Academy training)**
Commissioner Jones **MOTIONED to APPROVE** out of state travel for Taylor Rains and Chief Asher the **MOTION CARRIED.**
- **Strategic Long-Range Planning – Set Meeting Date:** Chief Asher will review the existing strategic plan this coming week. This is a great time to move forward, our department is changing and we need to start thinking long-range since passing the levy. Looking to schedule a meeting in February.

The special strategic planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

- **Short term Mechanic Services:** Chief Asher reported our mechanic will need time away from work due to family medical issues. Chief Asher stated we have 2 trucks near completion but are not completed. Chief Asher spoke with a mechanic who has all certifications to work on fire apparatus and will be on standby. The estimated hourly cost is \$110.00. The mechanic is flexible and can work around the hours as needed. We also have other options; Chelan County 1 and Grant County 5 have mechanics that we could call on if needed.
- **Entry Level Firefighter testing:** Chief Asher wanted to discuss a timeline to start the process to hire the 3 EMT/Firefighters. Staff feels if we can get the firefighters hired before wildland season this would be a huge benefit to help with the influx of tourists in the summer and open up our responses to wildland incidents. Chief Asher would like to publish the entry-level firefighter position to have a list by April 1, 2022. If we are unable to hire this year the list would still be good to pull from. Keeping in mind we did budget a full year of funding for the Assistant Fire Chief and we aren't bringing that position on



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



until May. Also, we may not find seasonal firefighters this year. Forest Service and DNR are hiring and bumping up the pay. We aren't sure we will be able to fill the positions. Chief Asher would like to hire the positions by April or May.

Commissioner Jones would like to wait to see what the final carry-over is before making a decision. Chief Asher will do a breakdown of the cost and bring it forward to the board.

- **Apparatus Planning Team:** Chief Asher reported he created an apparatus planning team it consists of 6 people. We are in review of the Type 1 structural urban interface engine. We committed to the community we would replace our apparatus. We have engine 73 at 29 years old and engine 79 at 26-year-old they are not passing pump testing. Keep in mind the committee is working toward finding urban interface apparatus. We have a great record of building brush trucks, thank you, Mechanic Goyne. Chief Asher doesn't want to send a shock value when looking at a structural urban interface engine. This will be a compact structural engine with 4x4 capabilities. As we get into the financing, we won't have to make a payment for a year after contracting and we are looking at lease options. We are looking at engines of 176 wheels base. They will be a functional apparatus that we need. No more New York hand me down apparatus.

Chief Asher suggested bringing Commissioner Moller to a trade show to see what type of apparatus we are in review of. Captain Shawn Sherman is the lead and will report at the next commissioner meeting.

Commissioner Jones stated after the ladder is repaired and paid for, receiving fire funds, and allocating \$250,000 end of the year we should have the funds in the apparatus fund to pay for it.

Special Events:

- KOZI – Community Connection January 20, 2022 @ 8:10 a.m. – Commissioner Jones / Chief Asher

Board for Volunteer Firefighters:

- BVFF Pension – Greg Girvin
The board approved the retirement documents of Greg Girvin and signed the form.

Public Comment:

Rich Uhlhorn – At the last City of Chelan meeting, Lisa Garvich suggested putting flags out to identify the hydrants. The city agreed that it should be done.

Commissioner Jones suggested Chief Asher follow up with the city.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Oules said she had nothing to add, we covered it all and will need to discuss it in depth which I think we will continue to do. And still wants the line item for the excess funds to be shown in the budget.

Chief Asher stated it is in the budget.

Commissioner Jones stated he had one thing he wanted to talk about. Unfortunately for several months, an individual has been launching several false narratives and allegations more aimed at me than others. One of the allegations is my participation in the levy committee. Suggesting that my participation with the levy committee was improper.

I inquired with the Public Discloser Commission. And this was the response I received:

Local elected officials are free to support agency ballot issues and engage in other political activities as long as such activities do not make use of government facilities, time, or resources and do not either pressure or condone employees' use of agency facilities, time, or resources to support ballot issues.

Commissioner Jones; I hope this is sufficient to put an end to the person who is making the allegations.



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA



Commissioner Oules, did you make this aware to that person?

Commissioner Jones I just did! It will be in the minutes. Unfortunately, people want to make issues on social media rather than follow proper processes.

Executive Session: RCW 42.30.110 (1)(f) to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee.

Commissioner Jones announced the board will go into Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(f) for 20 minutes the time is 4:02 P.M. the regular meeting was closed.

The board announced needing 10 more minutes at 4:24 p.m. the board returned at 4:42 p.m. adjourned the executive session. Returned to the regular meeting at 4:43 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjournment: There was no more business before the board meeting closed at 4:43 p.m.

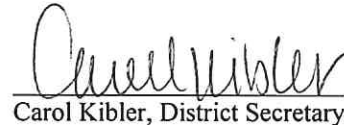
**Chelan County Fire Protection District 7
Board of Commissioners:**



Commissioner, Phil Moller


Commissioner, Russ Jones


Chairman, Karyl Oules


Carol Kibler, District Secretary