

MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 3:00 P.M.
232 East Wapato Ave, Chelan WA 98816

*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.

Staff in Attendance: Fire Chief Brandon Asher, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Sherman, Admin Assistant Karla Mendoza.

Others in Attendance: Barry Leahy, Ron Simmons, Marcia Holmdahl, Anne Clark, Steve Clark

Roll Call: Commissioner Moller, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Oules (Zoom)

Regular Meeting Call to Order: Chairman Moller called the meeting to order at 1500.

Introductions: New employees

Chief Asher gave the oath to Tyler Rice and pinned the firefighter badge. Congratulations, job well done!

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

Public Comment: None

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

- Revenue and Expenditure Report: June 2023
- Payroll: May 24, 2023, to June 22, 2023 / Paid 07-05-2023; Benefits \$87,154.12, Wages \$101,488.48 for a total of \$188,642.60.
- General Account Vouchers: 06-02-2023 Transactions 655-663 for \$14,301.02; 06-08-2023 Transactions 666-671 for \$19,089.83; 06-16-2023 Transactions 694-718 for \$13,227.83; 06-23-2023 Transactions 732-743 for \$12,951.66; 06-29-2023 Transactions 751-757 for \$55,795.84.
- Capital Account Vouchers: 06-03-2023 Transactions 664 for \$3,736.08; 06-09-2023 Transaction 670 for \$75,779.67; 06-17-2023 719-720 for \$7,647.36; 06-30-2023 Transaction 758 for \$2,003.49.
- Minutes: June 21, 2023

Fire Chief Report: (Chief Asher)

- 2023 Budget & Financial Report - June 2023
 - June's financials are looking good. Well, within appropriate numbers. We will start to see a slight uptick in shift OT due to injury and resignation. We are still well within the budget to cover OT.
- June - Emergency Response Report / Operations / Community Risk Reduction / Apparatus Update

Emergency Response Reports:

- The June Incident Response Report shows 119 calls for emergency service with our 10-year average call volume for June at 87 calls. 27% increase over last June.
- In 2023 our call volume year to date is still up 26%. In the long-range plan, I estimated a 6% increase for 2023.
- Rescue/EMS responses accounted for 67% of total calls for service with 24% of those non-transport (including patients who died at the scene) or patient transported POV.
- Major incidents for June: See PPT
- June turnout and response times (primary apparatus at Station 71) are within established service delivery goals as set out in SOG 010.

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- Effective Work Force: Effective workforce was acceptable for call types. We have had to staff stations more lately due to multiple calls at once.
- Total fire loss for June is 0

Administration:

- We are looking at going live with ESO records management in September/October. It is too complicated during fire season. This will still have us compliant with our medical reporting by the January 2024 deadline.
- After multiple interviews with two different mechanics a job offer was made to Jason Miller who is the lead mechanic for the City of Chelan. Jason will be starting on July 31st. Jason will be attending the Washington State Fire Mechanics conference and the Spartan Academy in Lansing Michigan. Spartan is sponsoring him to go as they are aware of our mechanical situation.
- Contract negotiations –we have not met since the last commissioner meeting. We are working on the wording and comparable.
- Met with a Manson Commissioner to provide them some guidance on what we did to have a successful levy outcome. They are very receptive and appreciative of what we have been doing lately.
- Quinn will be working on the ILA for the mechanic's position with Manson now that we have chosen a mechanic.
- TIF—The City is proposing a workshop for August 1st. They are asking us for a mitigation base. Quinn is not available on August 1st, but I will be working with him on something.

Operations:

- We had hoped to have our floater back in mid-July but after an MRI he found I was a bicep tear requiring surgery. We will not have our floater back until October (potentially).
- Probationary Firefighter/EMT Kyle Byrne has resigned from CFR and lateralled to Bothell.
- Tyler Rice was hired and assigned to two weeks of days and will then be placed on A-shift until the start of the Academy in September.

Community Risk Reduction/Events:

- Third Thursdays are starting up.
- August 4th- Fire and Cop on Top Event for the Special Olympics

Apparatus Status:

- Commissioner Jones and Lt. Simmons are still working on the Fire Capabilities of the boat.
- We had to contract with True North for the pump repair on E75. It will cost approximately \$20,000 but we had to do it. The in-housework that was done was missing gaskets and had many issues that the True North mechanic had to fix. I watched him work and am extremely glad we chose him. He is very efficient and fair. Engine 75 is now repaired, has passed the pump test, and is putting the truck back in service.
- Still no price update for the Type 3 chassis
- L71 is turning slowly to the right so the True North mechanic is looking at it while he is here.

Stations:

- We do not have an installation date for the upstairs flooring.

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- Station 71-generator update. We are waiting for the bid from Schmitt Electric on the wiring for Station 71.
- Station 73- we will put an inline filter to the supplied water and leave the cistern as a draft site only.
- Potentially put an inline water filter at Station-74 due to not having drinkable water.
- Discussed Station expansion and have spoken to ST Rep Mike Steele about funding. We were told to get moving on the issue if we are genuinely interested and considering expanding. I have spoken to the church next door about our preliminary ideas for the lot next door. They were very receptive to helping us out. Got the actual property lines pinned. The city said there is an 8 ft. setback from the sidewalk and a 10 ft. setback from the property line. We now know precisely where the property lines are. To maximize space, the district can apply for a variance through the city to decrease the 10 ft. setback between the new construction wall and the house, just depending on the building construction type. Any thoughts? It is very preliminary now.

Commissioner Oules: When will Washington State Rep Mike Steele's rotation position change? Would like to get a better feel on what to expect, because it is going to be an expensive thing to do?

Chief Asher: ST Rep Steele has a year and a half left.

Asst Chief Sherman: One of the things that ST Rep Steele explained is that it is easier to find funding for shovel-ready projects and could not emphasize that enough. At the very least we are laying some of the groundwork to be ready for when that happens.

Commissioner Oules: So, what from our end do we need to do, and at what cost to be moving forward?

Chief Asher: If I have the approval to keep moving forward and keep investigating. I have spoken with Chief Brett from Wenatchee Valley Fire, who has just designed two fire stations. He has two architect names that he gave me. I think the next step would be contacting them, and seeing if we can get an estimate of what a conceptual drawing would be and go from there. There are grants for plans and drawings that we could look at also. I will talk to Rep Steele again. Have him come back to the station so that we can go over this information in depth to understand his timelines. Have Rep Steele tell us what avenues to explore and have Rep Steele explain how to be successful to get funding for a station expansion funding.

Commissioner Oules: What is the real advantage going to be? How long would that expansion service? Forever? If we are going to get the public involved and their support, more information is needed. Why do we need it? Why are we doing this?

Chief Asher: Will be analyzed and presented if there is interest to continue. Not prepared to present it right now. Needs to know if Commissioners agree with continuing the Station 71 expansion & remodel. A plan will be put together on why to do this because if we do not get help from them to fund this, we may have to do this by a Bond or something else down the road or voter-approved.

Commissioner Moller: I have a couple of thoughts and a couple of questions. Aren't we going down this road right now because you had a guy that was going to do this for free? That was going

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to design a building? So, we said yes, let us take that opportunity, and now we are talking about paying for that service. What happened?

Asst. Chief Sherman: This was an offer. To present a product that could be used, to take us another step forward. We are waiting for that. That had not been presented to us by that guy. The conversation about station expansion proceeded with this guy's offer to provide drawings for a building.

Commissioner Moller: Oh sure. We have talked about station expansion for years. We have not discussed it seriously until this guy said he would do this for us.

Asst. Chief Sherman: Coincidentally, it happened this way.

Commissioner Moller: Second thought: Is this the place that we want to expand? Do we want to look at a second station out on the Southshore? Something out on Chelan Hills to staff? Do we want to staff this station with all our personnel? If we are expanding out.

Chief Asher: All our expanded-out stations are almost sitting empty right now.

Commissioner Moller: You are going to be asking for more firefighters. You already asked for more firefighters from the city in the mitigation plan. We do not need more firefighters here. We need them were ever that happens to be.

Chief Asher: Right now, it will not benefit us anywhere else.

Commissioner Moller: We should not be thinking about it right now. Right now, we are okay here. We do not need to expand, right now we are okay.

Chief Asher: That is exactly.

Commissioner Moller: When we bring on more people, we are not okay, and we will need to add more housing.

Chief Asher: That is a great question. This station is where they are located and mostly covers us for the WSRB. The only spot that I see in the future, potentially, could be the airport. Based on once the water is out there and everything is going that way. I am hesitant right now to do anything that way because we do not know what is going to happen in the next 3-5-10 years.

Commissioner Moller: Other than more expansion, you mean? More buildings? More people? Further up Putterman Gulch?

Chief Asher: Yes. What if we are doing something together? With Manson? Would it suit us to have a station in the middle? Possibly. Right now, it does not suit us. We can still get to our Fire District border well within time.

If you want to build a brand-new fire station, that is a lot of money.

Will it need to happen down the road? Yes, it could. But right now, we are servicing okay from here. This is our hub; this is a 30-year-old building. It was never designed for career staff. It would be welcoming to have admin in a nice area, where people do not have to take

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our elevator or hike up the stairs for simple questions. To get our duty crew downstairs, keep them from running up and down the stairs day in and day out, and for their safety.

Commissioner Moller: So, what you are telling me right now is that this building is not adequate. So, why would we put money into this building and not build somewhere else?

Chief Asher: That is always an option. The building is adequate for apparatus. If we wanted to explore that resident program. I cannot think of a better location. Station 75, we do not need 3 trucks out there. We have 3 volunteers. We could drop a bay, and potentially try resident quarters there, as a test, to see if it works. It would be a bit of a cost to make the building right. I do not envision a resident program working as well as everybody thinks that it will. Unless, and even that is a big question mark, it is right there when a 21-year-old kid. When he is not working his 48-hr. shift as a resident or however, we schedule that, can do whatever he wants in Chelan. Like it or not, that is the attractive part for the youth or somebody to come here. Or otherwise, they cannot be here. They cannot afford to live here.

Commissioner Moller: If ST Rep Steele is waving the checkbook, I would think building something here, that meets our needs, rather than a band-aid fix.

Chief Asher: Well, when I say expansion, I mean we have a roof that we know has issues, (...) so it would also be a station remodel and expansion. That is the way I have always envisioned.

Commissioner Moller: That is a bit different than building offices off to the side.

Chief Asher: Depending on how the layout is if we need an additional truck bay, we may remove the side staircase, I do not know. If we pursue that, we will get a station development committee to start exploring what the best ideas are for us. The main thing that I would like to do, now that we know what our exact sq footage is for a 2-story edition. At least we can get that estimate on how much it would cost per sq. ft. for an architect, for instance, the people who built stations 3 and 4 out in East Wenatchee. So, we have an idea. I know it is not cheap. If you dislike this building that much, you have the whole parking lot for a new modern design.

Commissioner Moller: If you designed a new station and were able to convince EMS (Emergency Medical Services) to put that ambulance in there, money would not be an issue. You would get a check written right away, to do what you needed to do.

Chief Asher: The frustrating part thing for me is that 11 million dollars were given to an ambulance station. When we can do it all, we are all hazards. That is why I hope we have a good shot at this. We are in a central location; we can do it all. That is money well spent.

Commissioner Moller: That is a conversation Michael, and I had a few weeks ago, that if we could get EMS in here, money would not be a problem.

Chief Asher: They are soon to be looking. Potentially, they have a buyer for the hospital. Spoke with Aaron (LCH) about ambulance movement for a bit, and we are open to it whenever they want to discuss it. They are not going to get a station built out right away, and they are going to need that money.

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Commissioner Moller: That is a great conversation. Continue with Michael because my last conversation was about why they are not here.

Asher: The door is always open.

Assistant Fire Chief Report (Asst. Chief Sherman)

- Employee: Firefighter/EMT Kyle Byrne was hired as a lateral for Bothell. We wish him well.
- Volunteer Recruitment / Training
- Recruitment
 - BBQ with Manson FD August 8th at Riverwalk Park @ 5 pm.
 - This event is to review large incidents, open recruitment, and interagency team building.
 - Chelan Fire and Rescue will be hosting the Volunteer Recruit Academy this year.
Social Media Drive
Reserve Firefighter Proposal.
- Retention-Nothing to Report
- Events
- Riverwalk Tuesday Drill
 - Drill with Manson on August 1st to train with their Zodiac
 - Drill with Manson on August 8th
- Stipend Coverage is at 0%
- Training
 - NFA (National Fire Academy) Course on Special Operations Program Management and Leadership 40-Hour Class
 - Needs 10 minutes out of the next meeting to present information from the NFA class.
 - We will be hosting the regional volunteer recruit academy this year starting in Early February. We will be hosting this academy in cooperation with Manson and Entiat FDs.

Firefighters Association Report (Ron Simmons)

- Volunteerism-
 - Not like it used to be. Hard to get members to commit. The association is facing complex decisions. More to come.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

- Agreement with NCW Fire Coordinating Group – Red Card Records management with WA DNR (Department of Natural Resources)
- **MOTION to APPROVE the Agreement with NCW Fire Coordinating Group as submitted the MOTION CARRIED.**

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- Out-of-state travel for Fire Mechanic Spartan Academy
- **MOTION to APPROVE the Out-Of-State-Travel for Fire Mechanic as submitted the MOTION CARRIED.**
- Type 3 Brush Engine Proposal

Chief Asher: Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, from whom we purchased our Ladder truck, has had an eye out for an apparatus for about 7 months. Slade, the gentleman we deal with, and aware of what happened with our Ladder, has been on the lookout to get a remedy for the situation from what happened. We found a truck that we have needed to fill since I got here. We currently do not have a Type 3 crew cab apparatus in our whole fleet. That is the most used fire apparatus on wildland fires, the most used fire apparatus on mobilizations, and the best reimbursement on a brush truck we can get on the brush truck side. Brindle has been looking for one of these for us, and they have one. It is a fitting truck for us. They gave us a substantial discount, and they will fix the apparatus well. If we were to consider purchasing this, it would allow us to do a bit of rig shifting. We do not currently have a support unit in our district. Since we do not have the Hazmat unit anymore, we do not need a rig that big for it. We have always talked about using Brush 75 as a Support Rig. This would give us some flexibility to create that. Right now, 51% of our volunteer force is support, or wildland, at various levels.

Commissioner Jones: ...Support?

Chief Asher: Support is typically for structure fire-type situations. Set out tables, chairs for rehab, Ems supplies, portable heating for the middle of winter, ice chests, and scene lights.

Asst Sherman: Help facilitate food and rehab supplies during wildland fire season. Right now, support is underutilized.

Chief Asher: Right now, they will jump in the Tahoe, and start putting bottles in there. So, the plan would be Brush 75, which is our old single-cab Ford. It is the only one we have left. We can mount all the bottles in the compartments. We would take out the tank and have the whole center area for tables. All the big support stuff. We can carry lath and plaster to button up homes after fires. Give them something to get to the scene with.

- B75 – goes to State Mob and EMAC – (Oregon, California)
- Done well – B75 is a money maker
- Helps locally
- Single Cab
- Cramped Space- up against the dashboard
- B75 is 2-wheel drive and not 4-wheel drive
- Center seat has no shoulder strap
- For Type 3 reimbursement – 3 people required

The discussion for Type 3 – Crew Cab proposal from Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus-see PPXT.

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Commissioner Moller: Is not interested in the purchase of the Type 3 Brush Truck.

Chief Asher: A discussion was brought up to sell Station 75 Short Plat to help pay for type 3 if the property were to sell.

Commissioner Jones: Motioned to approve the sale of Station 75 Short Platt to pay off Type 3.

- **MOTION to APPROVE Sale of Station 75 Short Platt to pay off Type 3 as submitted the MOTION was DENIED.**

Commissioner Oules: Denied the approval of the motion, not interested in paying interest.

Commissioner Moller: The motion is still on the table, and asked Commissioner Oules for the reason for not approving the motion for further discussion.

Commissioner Oules: No in opposition to the vehicle. Has opposition to pay interest. Willing to list the property, if it sells, use that money to pay it off asap. If it does not sell, then we need to take 250,000 which is a reserve and pay it off.

Commissioners Jones: Amend the Motion to the purchase of the Type 3 Engine subject to:

1. Paid off by the earlier Sale of Short Platt **OR**
2. Next year's allocation for Apparatus

- **MOTION to APPROVE the amended motion as submitted the MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Moller: Is not in approval of the purchase of the Type 3

Special Events:

- KOZI – Community Connection Thursday, July 20, 2023 @ 8:10 a.m. – Fire Chief Asher and Commissioner Jones.
- July 29-30, 2023, Chelan JR. Rodeo
- Thursdays - Chelan Farmers Market – Riverwalk

Board for Volunteer Firefighters: None

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Jones: Enjoyed listening to one of our firefighters after the semi-truck crash in McNeil Canyon, raving about the cordless auto extrication tools. Also, watercraft and water incidents total 16. We have been doing an excellent job to equip ourselves. Looking forward to getting the firefighting capability on M71.

Chief Asher: Happy with volunteer and career response for when we have incidents, home base is covered.

Commissioner Moller:

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Unsatisfied with how the mechanic position was filled, as far as the hiring process, and job posting.

Chief Asher: Explained the reason for CFR's hiring process and discussed how the hiring process went to fill our mechanic position.

- Called Chief Brian Brett of WVFD for pointers on hiring of mechanic. WVFD went through a recent hiring process for a mechanic. Went through daily dispatch. Chief Brett's formal hiring process only attracted 6 candidates to apply. A conditional job offer was issued. Candidate declined job offer due to a significant pay cut, and ability to find housing. Hired a local person not in fire service.
- Concerned with WVFD recent process, and finding candidates, spent time updating job description. Going to post on daily dispatch. Networked in area, decided against daily dispatch, due to finding 3 candidates in the area. Multiple interviews with all 3 candidates, a conditional job offer was issued to a candidate. They turned down position, due to family and work hours. A second conditional job offer was issued, and candidate took the position. CFR is happy with the candidate and found the right person for job. He is established in the area and has a great working history with John Goyne. Third candidate was solid choice too, so name was given to Grant County, who is actively looking for a mechanic. If these candidates were wrong for department, the hiring process would have been modified to include daily dispatch. The hiring process would take months, which would not have mattered, if the right person for the department and job were found.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: There being no more business for the Board of Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 16:46.

Chelan County Fire Protection District 7
Board of Commissioners:

Chairman Phil Moller

Commissioner Russ Jones

Commissioner Karyl Oules



Attest: Carol Kibler, District Secretary