



Special Meeting
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 4:30 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 Russ Jones, Commissioner Mark Donnel, Commissioner Karyl Oules, Fire Chief Brandon Asher, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Sherman, Carol Kibler and Karla Mendoza.

Others Present: Chelan County Fire District 5 Commissioner Fred Weiss, Commissioner Dan Baker, Commissioner Chris Willoughby, Fire Chief Arnold Baker, Captain Nick Glenn, Raynor Baker and Admin. Asst. Reggie Trusel.

Special Meeting Called to Order: Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

New Business:

Levy info and suggestions (requested by CC5)

- Commissioner Fred Weiss stated they are in the process of organizing a levy. Since Fire 7 went through the process, what are your successes and drawbacks?
- Commissioner Jones's - huge factor was the association helped with the campaign side of things. We worked with our attorney to get the ballot wording.
- Commissioner Donnell—gave a historical recall of the fire district levies. And stated that good campaigning was a success in passing the levy.
- Commissioner Oules: The important thing we did was we had 2 failed levees. The community involvement made a difference and supported the levy, so it passed.
- Commissioner Fred Weiss – did the group talk to the citizens and groups of people?
- Ron Simmons – stated the fire district is restricted in presenting the levy information. And yes, we had conversations with groups of people and made it a priority to have positive communication and created a specific plan. We spoke to all kinds of groups and presented a positive campaign.
- Chief Asher suggested focusing on what the community needs and what gains will happen in correcting the deficiencies the fire district has. The Fire District planned to hire staffing and upgrade apparatus to help improve the WSRB rating. The campaign group painted positive pictures for the citizens. We put together a video telling the community what they will receive. With the passing of the levy and CFR hiring staff and upgrading the apparatus, the WSRB rating has improved in the City Limits, and the community is receiving improved services. Social media was also used as a successful tool.
- Commissioner Jones stated to stay focused on the assessed per 1000. You won't get the property values until October, and your ballot language has to be submitted by May.



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Activities / Training to coordinate between CC5 and CFR

- Chief Asher mentioned both fire districts are expanding the operational training, and we are breaking down the walls and working together.
- Commissioner Fred Weiss stated it benefits both communities.
- Chief Sherman, we are working to open communication to help us better manage incidents. The purpose of working together is to be unified on all incidents. We are erasing the past. The drill times are getting better and better. Getting a second response from another agency (CCFD5 or CFR) gives the incident a boost.
- Commissioner Oules – can you put together a master plan goal?
- Chief Asher, we all have identified the critical need to recruit and retain members. As we explore the possibilities, this will be a position action for our chief officers.
- Raynor Baker—the communication and relationship have been great. Each department has seen an improvement in incident management, which is a huge benefit to both departments and the community. From the training standpoint, each district has its own schedule and needs but sees the benefits of having combined drills, and we have scheduled drills on a quarterly basis.
- Chief Sherman, the plan is in place to deal with incidents. We all use the Incident Command System (ICS) at the basic level. Every time we come together to train, we understand ICS and know how it works. When we train together, it gets better each time.
- Commissioner Donnell - we need to look at this globally. The challenges we are facing today are all RISK. This goes with all types, combinations, or only volunteer fire departments. It's getting harder and harder to maintain volunteers with the cost and increase in doing business. The demands of the community have put a huge stress on the fire department and community. We have little resources of funding and can do a lot with what we do have while working together and taking little steps forward to improve our service to the communities we live in.
- Commissioner Donnell says that this is a global issue, and we need to continue doing what we are doing. How can we work better together? We have seen huge changes in how we all work together with limited resources.
- Captain Nick Glenn sees the differences in both departments between career and volunteer staff, mentioning the regulations and safety aspects we are held to.
- Chief Sherman explained the transfer of command from volunteer to career staff.
- Commissioner Donnell explained the Union career staff have no say in ICS practices and procedures.
- Commissioner Donnell stated Volunteer firefighters have to meet the same standards as a career firefighter. And volunteerism has declined, and it is challenging to maintain.
- Chief Asher stated we can help CCFD5 with training.
- Commissioner Jones stated we have career firefighters and we have Volunteer firefighters. Both groups are professionals.
- Commissioner Fred Weiss asked if we struggle with command duty. This is an important item, and your comments are appreciated.
- Chief Asher, we do have a duty rotation. We are in the process of certifying our captains to take duty officer command.



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- Chief Asher mentioned a joint training/duty officer could be an expanded role for both fire districts. How do we do that, and is there interest from CCFD5?
- Chief Baker – We want to move training to a full-time position; we are pushing through the blue card certification online. We can't offer anything at this time, but we will have it done before the end of the year. Chief Baker wants to have the certification before committing.
- Commissioner Chris Willoughby – has seen fires in the valley, and this is a stepping stone to start. We have a lot to learn from each other. We started the training and would like to see it done quarterly. The community needs this type of service.
- Commissioner Jones - are we formally committed to training quarterly with CCFD5?
- Chief Sherman we are committed to training quarterly but nothing formally.
- Chief Asher – the long-range goal is to share administrative duties. There are lots of meetings both chiefs go to, and it would be a benefit to have more people attend the decision-making meetings for the valley.

Benefits of working together

- Understanding of career personnel/volunteers and how they relate to each other.
- Difference in training standards and bridging
- Expectations when giving/receiving aid.

Long-range succession planning:

- Chief Asher mentioned Chief Baker would be retiring. What does that look like for CCFD5 and the valley? What is the CCFD5 succession plan? What are you looking for?
- Chief Baker – it is a given the agencies will come together. But not during my time. When the firefighters are ready, they will let you know. The more we do the training and deliver the services we need to keep pushing the stuff.
- Chief Asher stated that part of Chief Sherman's idea has been to return responsibility to the volunteer LTs and Chief Sherman has improved the morale in the department.
- Commissioner Donnell, we need to continue to move forward in training and bringing the services together. This will allow us to provide the best service to the communities we serve.
- Captain Nick Glenn - the expectation is we put ourselves in life-and-death situations; it's important for all of us to know we have trust in each other.
- Chief Asher stated we both are losing institutional experience in the next five years. We benefited from those who taught us. There is a gap between the old ones and the new ones. It's a void.

- Commissioner Fred Weiss asked if we have an evacuation plan.
- CCS could answer the question.
- Commissioner Donnell – how do we get people out of town with one way out of Chelan? Let's start the conversations.



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- Chief Baker – mentioned his experience in Douglas County and the evacuation process.
- Emergency Management will mitigate the evacuation of a community.
- Chief Asher stated we need to update the emergency response plans.

Community Growth:

- Mill Bay Casino—Groundbreaking this spring—phase one is a 100-unit hotel. They must comply with all federal laws. It will be built on the upside of Highway 150.
- Manson area 60 lots floating around near the Mill Bay Casino
- Manson area 450 lots in the works. If interest rates drop.
- Mason has the potential for high growth.

Chief Baker – update to the Group Insurance – we didn't do an Out Clause with the WA State Insurance Risk Group. We are a group of 2 set up as North Central WA. For example, if one of the agencies isn't paying the bill, we can't get rid of them. A 60% board, one commissioner from each agency. 60% majority, you can remove one of the agencies if they are not a responsible party. There is a set dollar amount of coverage. We hopefully aren't going to use the insurance. We need to change our language in the agreement. We have our attorney, Snure, reviewing the agreement and will have him write the Out Clause.

Chief Baker invited CFR for a ride-along in an airplane on April 18, 2024, to see an aerial view of the area. This gives a good perspective from the air of our fire districts.

Commissioner Jones – suggested meeting again in June.

Suggested Agenda Item:

- What things can we do today to have them in place 10 years from now?
- Evacuation and shelter in place

Commissioner Donnell suggested meeting in Manson.

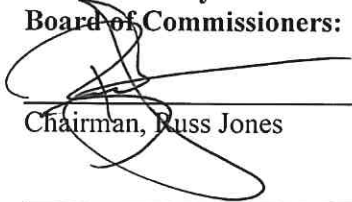
Adjournment: There being no more business before the Board the special meeting closed at 18:04.



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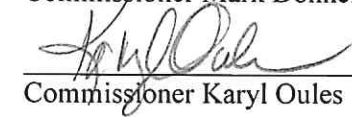


Chelan County Fire Protection District 7
Board of Commissioners:



Chairman, Russ Jones

Commissioner Mark Donnell



Commissioner Karyl Oules



Attest: Carol Kibler, District Secretary