



MINUTES  
Chelan Fire and Rescue  
Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 3:00 P.M.  
232 East Wapato, 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.*

**Flag Salute**

**Roll Call:** Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Oules, and Commissioner Donnell. Fire Chief Asher, District Secretary Misty Fifield, Administration; Karla Mendoza.

**Regular Meeting Call to Order:** Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 15:00

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Insurance Discussion:**

- Washington State Representative Keith Goehner, Mike Steele, Brad Hawkins from the 12<sup>th</sup> District, Chief Arnold Baker, Commissioner Fred Wiess from District 5, and Shon Smith.

**Chairman Jones** introduced the State Representatives and discussed how insurance companies have been cancelling homeowners by zip codes. Commissioner Wiess introduced 5 topics they would like to see insurance companies consider; assess individual parcels, give credit for hardening, update fire risk maps, arbitration, and consider the impact on the ability to sell a home.

**Brad Hawkins-** Insurance companies often generalize and rely on outdated information. With a new office set to open in January, let's plan to invite insurance legislator candidates this fall to hear your perspectives and engage other communities. New candidates may find this initiative compelling to include in their platforms. Preparing draft bills ahead can streamline the process, which can sometimes take up to two years."

**Mike Steele-** the WUI/Risk management maps require updating, with distinct maps for different areas such as Tumwater and Leavenworth reflecting their specific risks. It's crucial to approach this carefully, considering the lessons from the health insurance initiative. Key risks to consider include whether a strategy effective in one area will translate to another and ensure suitability across diverse locations. Also, Hillary Franz has done a great job and could be a great advocate.

**Keith Goehner** is eager to ensure accuracy in this matter so it's crucial to collaborate and utilize the resources of the insurance commissioner's office. With new seats becoming available next year, a new commissioner should be eager to get this right out of the gate. Insurance cannot leave uninsured individuals without coverage, and there is a critical need for changes in insurance rates, which have been poorly managed over the years.

**Chairman Jones-** this takes time and individual fire districts don't have a lot of leverage but if we all come together, we can do it.

**Chief Asher-** this has been a hot topic at the Fire Chiefs conference. People all over are going through the same/similar thing.

**Mike Steele-** asked what California and Oregon have done.

**Brad Hawkins** mentioned the Seattle Times did a deep dive into this topic. Suggested organizing a robust stakeholder group and including an insurance representative to facilitate positive changes.

**Mike Steele-** What is an individual insurance assessment?

**Chief Asher-** we offer to go out and do an individualized wildfire assessment. The Union Valley area was used as an example across the state for Firewise due to their active community members preparing their properties for fire.

**Commissioner Donnell** the Firewise program educates homeowners on reducing wildfire risks and equips them with resources to implement these measures. Despite some homeowners diligently preparing for wildfires, they are often not distinguished by their insurance providers and are grouped with those who have not taken any risk-reduction steps.

**Mike Steele-** confirming that he is hearing Commissioner Donnell correctly, "Firewise standards are not being recognized by insurance companies"



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**Chairman Jones and Fred Weiss** We are actively advocating to ban highly flammable yard debris from properties and urging insurance companies to recognize the specific landscape materials present on each parcel.

**Chief Asher-** to clear some confusion with WSRB, they only look at the structure firefighting. So, the WSRB rating that we discuss has nothing to do with Wildland fires.

**Brad Hawkins-** who oversees making the risk assessment maps?

**Mike Steele-** someone at some point thought they were good maps.

**Chairman Jones-** how do we move forward?

**Mike Steele-** Start immediately and put pressure on the insurance companies and the insurance commissioners. The association needs to pick up on this.

**Chairman Jones-** What happens to a homeowner who has a mortgage and can't get insurance? Banks can help put a policy in place, the state has a FAIR insurance policy, and Insurance companies/banks can halt construction projects

**Mike Steele-** Offered to sponsor the legislative side of this and would be happy to work on this topic

**Keith Goehner** would also like to sponsor the legislative side of this

**Commissioner Weiss-** there is a place for the county to help and spoke of replacing fire-prone plants with fire-resistant plants.

**Consent Agenda: Chairman Russ Jones MOTIONED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Donnell seconded the MOTION CARRIED.**

- Revenue and Expenditure Report: May 2024
- Payroll: 04-24-2024 to 05-23-2024 Paid 06-05-2024 Benefits: \$140,338.00, Salaries/Wages (Net) \$135,451.54 Total \$275,789.54.
- General Account Vouchers: 05-03-2024 Transactions #583 to #592 for \$18,158.33; 05-10-2024 Transactions #600-621 for \$18,950.84; 05-15-2024 Transactions #685 for \$34.57; 05-17-2024 Transaction #659-679 for \$33,979.60; 05-24-2024 Transactions #686 to 698 \$9,888.84; 05-31-2024 Transactions #702 to 716 for \$12,348.76.
- Capital Account Vouchers: 05-04-2024 Transaction #593 to 596 for \$156,810.38; 05-18-2024 Transaction # 680; \$77,675.98; 05-30-2024 Transaction # 701 for \$728.36.
- Minutes: May 15, 2024

**Fire Chief Report: (Chief Asher)**

**2024 Budget & Financials:**

- May Financials are in and looking good. May was a known expensive month for training OT. We had an injury, and we had a weeklong rescue swimmer class. We also had 4 students and 1 instructor for the Rope Rescue Technician class. That was the bulk of the training.

**Emergency Response Reports:**

- May Incident Response Report shows 105 calls for emergency service with our 10-year average call volume for May at 88 calls.
- Rescue/EMS responses accounted for 72% of total calls for service with 40% of that non-transport (including patients who died at the scene) or patient-transported POV which is a bit lower than normal.
- Major incidents for May: See PPT
- Turnout and response times (primary apparatus at Station 71) are within established service delivery goals as set out in SOG 010
- Adequate staffing and no loss
- We had a 1-night state mobilization to Dallesport. T71 and I went.
- Capt. Zacher STL to Yakima for the Beam Road fire this week.



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- Pioneer Fire- We've been heavily involved with the Pioneer Fire and recently signed a \$250 land use agreement with them. Cooperators meetings are scheduled here at 10 AM on Mondays and Fridays. They'll be introducing a new team this weekend. They have been great to work with.
- Great idea for some boat training in the future up Lake
- State is paying for boat training
- The boat makes \$1,000.00 per day and the State pays for fuel and everything that breaks.
- May turnout and response times (primary apparatus at Station 71) are within established service delivery goals as set out in SOG 010
- Effective Work Force: Effective workforce was acceptable for call types. Total fire loss for May in district \$0
- We have the Pioneer Fire going on up lake. I've been attending all briefings and organizing our resources to provide what support we can. I also spent 2 days on the team assessing the north end of Manson should the fire make it down Lake that far. It was very eye opening to see some of the WUI challenges that they also have. The next CIMT will transition in on Sunday.

**Administration:**

- I'm done pursuing ESO for our records management. We are now proposing going with First Due. We will need to pay a \$2800 one-time cost to get access. They will work with our data migration throughout the summer, and we will completely switch when appropriate. We have our bill with ERS finally figured out for the system we are currently using. Going forward our subscription will be approximately \$10,900 a year for First Due. This is about \$1000 more than what we'd end up paying with ESO but is a much better program for us. They will invoice us in November, and we pay in January
- This is our first month without Carol and the admin team is all settling in well together. We'll soon be starting preliminary budget analysis and projections
- I, Commissioners Donnell and Jones attended the Commissioner's conference where the focus was on long-range planning. Donnell was happy with how far we were ahead of other agencies
- We have revamped our printing contract and should see significant cost savings for the printers we use upstairs and downstairs.
- The Hazard Mitigation Plan and CWPP updates are still in process. These occur multiple Thursdays a month. I, Chief Baker, Casey from City, and Jake from DNR had a focus workgroup on our area. This is a big project that is taking a lot of my time. Annex 2 of 3 is complete.
- I haven't heard any updates from the city on any grant applications that they are applying for. – water reservoir
- FF Steady submitted another \$4000 IPAD grant for the apparatus. We have slowly been putting them on the apparatuses. The iPad is attached to the Apparatus however it needs service and First Due will be integrated into the new records management.
- I have asked the program leads to start thinking about their 2025 budget requests.

**Operations:**

- We will have to pay for the RIT bottle update. Approximately \$1,000.00 per pack
- I discovered an issue with antennae's that were purchased for our new BKR500 radios. These are being replaced with stock antennas. This is done through our Rivercom cooperative. The new antennas arrived yesterday.
- Creating a boat Captain availability list to keep BT71 attached to the fire as long as possible. \$1000

**Community Risk Reduction/Events**

- The Association hosted a very successful pancake breakfast.
- Cruizin Chelan was packed



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**Apparatus Status:**

- Both alternators have been replaced on BT71. It was used on the Pioneer Fire.
- Brindlee Mountain is still very receptive to any issues we've found with the Type 3
- E79 is still getting mounts installed.
- E73- Trout Lake Montana came and looked at E73 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. They have a commissioner meeting on the last Tuesday of the month and we're hoping they'll approve the purchase for \$45,000.

**Stations:**

- Station 71 generator update. We are purchasing the same motor that was in it. We still have \$20,000 in the insurance claim.
- Crews restriped Station 71 lines out front

**Recruitment/Retention:**

- 3 new members are being processed.

**Training:**

- Rescue Swimmers did their annual water refresher.
- Volunteers completed water awareness and extrication.

**Long Range Discussion:**

- Commissioner Jones will reach out to plan a meeting with District 5 in July

**Assistant Fire Chief Report (Asst. Chief Sherman)**

- Reported by Chief Asher

**Firefighters Association Report (Ron Simmons)**

- More of a success than expected. Served over 490 community members and raised roughly \$4,000.00.
- Thank you to our local sponsors, Chelan Market, Blueberry Hills, Starbucks, and Walmart.
- Several events planned: Art in the Park, attending the Farmers Market once a month, and holiday events.

**Unfinished Business:**

- TIF – No update
- Strategic Plan – The chief followed up with the commissioners.

**New Business:**

- Destruction of Documents: **Chairman Jones MOTION to APPROVE the Destruction of Documents Mark seconded the MOTION CARRIED.**

**Special Events:**

- KOZI – Community Connection Thursday, June 20, @ **8:10 a.m.** – Fire Chief Asher and Commissioner Oules
- Cycle Chelan
- Paragliders
- Art in The Park
- Special Meeting June 20, 2024
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July
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**Board for Volunteer Firefighters:** None

**Public Comment:**



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- Rich Uhlhorn- the Pioneer Fire is burning into the old Rex Fire.

**Commissioner Comments:**

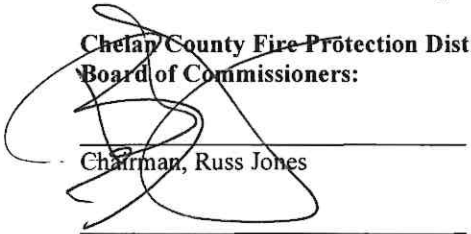
Commissioner Donnell- Kudos to the district for their quick response to the Davis Canyon Fire. Thinks that specific area may not be within any district and may want to discuss with the property owners to consider the annexation into the district.

Chairman Jones, great job and quick response to the Davis Canyon fire.

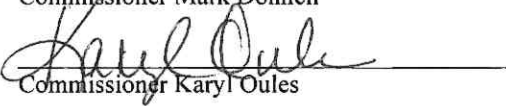
**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** There was no more business before the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Donnell MOTIONED to ADJOURN the regular meeting at 15:09. The MOTION CARRIED

Chelan County Fire Protection District 7  
Board of Commissioners:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Russ Jones

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Mark Donnell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Karyl Oules

  
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Attest: