



MINUTES

Chelan Fire and Rescue

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 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: Chairman Mark Donnell, Commissioner Russ Jones, Commissioner Ron Simmons (via Zoom), Chief Brandon Asher, Assistant Chief Shawn Sherman, and District Secretary Misty Fifield. Administrative Assistant Karla Mendoza had an excused absence.

Regular Meeting Call to Order: Chairman Donnell called the meeting to order at 15:00 at 232 East Wapato, Chelan, WA 98816

Chairman Donnell added the following items to the agenda after the consent agenda: the commissioners' report and the closing comments.

Chief Asher, we need to add SOG 250- 01 for emergency response POV, Resolution 2025-02, and SOG 241 Wildland task book

Approved Agenda:

COMMISSIONER Jones MOTIONED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda as submitted, the MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment: None

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

- Revenue and Expenditure Report: January 2025
- Payroll: 12-22-2024 to 01-23-2025 Paid 02-05-2024 Benefits: \$133,124.66, Salaries/Wages (Net) \$147,069.64 Total \$280,194.30.
- General Account Vouchers: 01-03-2025 Transaction #1629 to #1636 for \$18,362.00; 01-17-2025 Transaction #64 to #94 for \$49,146.44; 01-24-2025 Transaction #118 to # 132 for \$18,842.22; 01-31-2025 Transaction to #133 to #145 for \$120,269.46.
- Capital Purchase: None
- Minutes: January 15, 2025
- Commissioner Simmons asked if the payroll listed above includes the OT from the Palisades Fire in California. Chief Asher said yes.

Commissioner's Report:

- Chairman Donnell attended District 5's Commissioner meeting and stated it is run differently than most he has attended; it is a round table and food-orientated. Executive session too place at the beginning of the meeting, therefore he had lots of time to visit while waiting for the executive session to end.
- Discussed the Office of Insurance Commission meeting. Good information came out of it; however, it still feels like a long way from getting more momentum. In the next month, reach out to the representatives to continue a long-range discussion
- Commissioner Jones did not feel the office of the Insurance Commission was interested in moving forward. He is reading up on the TORT reform that is happening in Florida and seems to work there. We are the only state in the country that insurance companies don't give credit to for home hardening, and that needs to change.
- Chairman Donnell- WSRB has not kept up with a progressive approach to determining how to keep the fire and indexes to help keep our insurance rates down.
- Commissioner Jones, we went to the Legislative day and did not feel he had much of a response from one of our local reps.
- Chairman Donnell-we should meet with our local reps here locally
- Commissioner Simmons agrees with Commissioner Donnell and does not feel the OIC will make any strides working with legislators on anything this year. He feels we will see more cancellations this year.



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The Yacht Club contacted him about the possibility that the District may have resources to provide them with a generator to run their water pump, to be discussed later in the agenda.

Public Comment-Commissioner- None

Fire Chief Report: (Chief Asher)

- 2025 Budget & Financial Report – February 2025- The Board did not receive the February Financials
- I reviewed the financials to see what crept into 2025. The costs that stick out are the audit, awards banquet costs, and some EMAC meal costs that will be reimbursed. We also replenished our Knox box stockpile, which is reimbursed as it is sold. We also had the washing machine and the two vacuums go out at the same time and replaced those items.
- Chairman Donnell requested the revised financials be sent to the board once completed
- Commissioner Jones shared the State Auditor charges over \$20,000.00 to perform the audit
- BVFF had a larger increase than expected. It went from \$90 to \$140 per person, so we'll adjust next year.
- We also have an OT/Acting coding discrepancy that Misty and Carol will be working on, which should lower those numbers.

Emergency Response Reports:

- January Incident Response Report shows 64 calls for emergency services. Our 10-year average call volume for January is 61 calls
- Chief Asher presents the breakdown from First Due, along with the new reports. An issue was identified with the time transfer from Rivercom to First Due, which is causing inaccurate response times. This discrepancy is due to the time the calls are toned out, reflecting the period from when the call originated to when we arrive on scene. The First Due report is highly detailed and descriptive, including a heat map that highlights the areas we frequently respond to
- Rescue/EMS responses accounted for 69% of total calls for service, with 21% 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 January: None to report.
- January turnout and response times (primary apparatus at Station 71) will be updated when First Due is correctly receiving times.
- Effective Work Force: Effective workforce was acceptable for call types.
- NO fire loss for January in the district.
- Chief Asher asked the board if they had any requests for new reports, no comment
- Question from the public: Dave Rinehart: does Chelan Fire and Rescue respond to every EMS call in the district?
- Chief Asher- Yes

Administration:

- First Due: Every day, we're refining the system and improving its functionality.
- We've had good report cards so far for our two probationary firefighters at North Bend.
- I wrote two separate letters of support for WSDOT's 2025 Project grant funds. They are applying for two grants: one focuses on the tunnel and Slide Ridge for rock removal, while the other addresses the second access route into and out of Manson. I received an email today stating that the grant was removed from Grants.gov. We hope that it is in a review phase and will hopefully be reinstated.
- Commissioner Jones and I attended Legislative Day with three other Chelan County agencies. It was a fast 10 minutes.
- Last week, we had our meeting with OIC to discuss insurance issues.



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- All SCBA bottles purchased through the grant for all agencies needed to be hydrostatic tested. We are in the process of completing that right now. Our first 30 bottles have been tested, and the next batch went down today.
- Conversation with Chief Oatey from Douglas County 4, who announced that he would be retiring in three months. Chief Asher extended our services as always.
- Commissioner Jones- is their station out by BeeBee Bridge is an active fire station.
- Chief Asher - yes, and we also received credit for that station.
- We will need to move the March Commissioner meeting, or Chief Sherman can run it, as Chief Asher will be unavailable.
- Chairman Donnell - Sherman could run it.

Community Risk Reduction/Events

- The Chelan Job Fair is on March 21st. Capt. Rains, our CRR lead, is leading our group.

Apparatus Status:

- Waiting for a call back on a new command truck from Cascade Auto
- Jason is finishing the brush truck upgrade. The bumper, plumbing, hitch, and rear boxes added approximately \$4000 to the project. This truck is going to be renamed B72. We will no longer have an apparatus titled R71.
- Will need to purchase a front bumper that will support a front monitor and add a new bumper. Still have B79 at ST75.
- Waiting on a pump discharge gauge for E79.
- Jason has been working on TW51 for Manson
- Chief Oatey wanted to know if we had the time to install a front mount torrent on one of their brush trucks
- Entiat is also on the list for rig service.

Stations:

- Station 71 generator update. The updated wiring has been a challenge. Johnny Synder and Jason will have to go wire by wire to complete the installation.
- We have received quotes for a professionally installed security/camera system, and it was a lot more than expected. Station 71's cheap option was \$15,000, and Station 74's cheap option was \$12,000. My recommendation is to buy one from Costco and have it done in-house.
- Chairman Donnell - do we have a problem that requires a better camera system than what we have
- Chief Asher - we have had some issues, and it would help the admin to know who is coming into the building. The bay doors are left open for a few minutes when there is a call. With our high-value items, it is worth looking at options.
- Chairman Donnell thought we had monitors upstairs.
- Chief Asher - it is a hokey system.
- Chief Sherman went into detail about the break-ins/thefts over the years
- Chairman Donnell brought up fencing in the parking lot.
- Commissioner Jones offered to help look into cameras since he has the experience
- Commissioner Simmons mentioned legislative day. Was there anything we wanted to talk about?
- Chief Asher- Insurance is a business, and we must look at it like a business, and they won't do it to lose money.
- Commissioner Jones-Wild lander with interface code had some discussion
- Chief Asher - they are looking at doing the WUI map and updating the new house bill to include language so that Regional Fire Defense coordinators will have input on the map.



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- Commissioner Simmons - is the map developed by some offshoot of the state building council or is developed by the counties and submitted to the state
- Chief Asher - not sure who is doing it.
- Commissioner Simmons-ST75 has door lock issues. Apparatus-wise, are we still waiting on the boat collar to be fixed by insurance?
- Chief Asher - We will reach out to them at the end of the week, but the check should be in the email
-

Long Range Discussion:

- Any long-range topics that have been brought to anyone's attention?

Assistant Fire Chief Report (Asst Chief. Chief Sherman)

- We have one volunteer application – the south shore near station 75.
- Houston Stodghill and Chris Colbert continue to get positive reviews from their supervisors at the FTA.

Recruitment/Retention:

- No losses

STIPEND COVERAGE

- Mikko Gordon stipend orientation completed
- 3 members are opening Stipend Task Books

TRAINING

- Quarter 1 training is going well, but attendance is lower than normal.
Quarter 1 of the Chelan/Manson drill will be at Mill Bay boat launch on March 25th. It will involve Big Water, pumping, drafting, and master streams. A camera is strongly encouraged for some cool photos.

Operations:

- John Steiner has begun the Basic Fire Inspector course VIA NFPA Online
- Peter Brodie & Kari Desser volunteered to assist with the FLSI program.
- Commissioner Donnell - do we have updated the SOG
- Chief Asher has not been updated at this point as he is waiting to see how the program goes
- Chairman Donnell would like to see an update as the program progresses
- Commissioner Simmons, from his experience, says that having an NFPA certification gives you generalities but does not do much for you when looking at the state's fire code and questions how it benefits us.
- Chief Sherman clarified that he was informed we do not get any credit for it unless the inspector is certified.
- Chairman Donnell requested that Chief Sherman to reach out and get clarification on the credits we will receive.
- Inspected the Boat at Pasco Fire Department
Pasco FD is asking for \$20,000 to offset the cost of purchasing electronics, which was not part of the DOE grant.
- Potential portable hydrant for lake shore adjacent fires and a major asset for up lake incidents.
- The generator project is ongoing. The most recent electrician turned down the project and recommended Legacy Power Systems INC. I made a contact request, but the company has not returned messages so far.
- Station 75 HVAC: Is moving the air handler sufficient?
- Commissioner Simmons feels the handler is going to be fine. However, he questions whether the unit is running more frequently and what its life expectancy could be if it is constantly running.
- Chief Sherman mentioned he would look at power consumption.
- Frozen door locks at ST 75- feels it would be worth our while to change the door locks.
- First Due Region 6 Training group discussed having a First Due group meeting to bring all the agencies up to speed with the new platform.



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- Seasonal Position: 1 letter of interest from an outside agency, one CFR Volunteer interested in position.

Fleet:

- Brush 72 (formerly Rescue 71) upgrade in process. Waiting on the remainder of the parts. Jason is doing the majority of the fabrication in-house. Ladder 81 will be brought to station 74 this week (weather dependent). Tower 52 major valve overhaul is ongoing, and Entiat Engines are scheduled for maintenance next.
- Jason is also planning on upgrading the pump operability to the M1083s.

Firefighters Association Report:

- RON – board members will meet next week to see what the marching plan is for the next couple of months
- Sherman - business owner dropped off some supplies for anyone who loses a home.

Executive Session:

- The Board will convene into executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is expected to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. It should take approximately 10 minutes. Entered at 3:49 and returned at 4:02

Unfinished Business:

- TIF—I have no update other than that when I last talked to Erin, they hadn't had their potential funding pulled.
- Chief Sherman will discuss the Pasco Fire Boat opportunity minus the FLIR and Navigation system
- Commissioner Jones asked about the specifics.
- Chief Sherman shared the specifics of the boat. The DOE grant stipulated that if the boat were sold to a third party, there would be logistical issues that Pasco was not willing to go into, so they are pursuing the transfer of the boat to another fire agency. The agency receiving the boat has no obligations to the DOE and can do as it wants with the boat. Pasco is asking for \$20,000.00 to offset the cost of the electronics that Pasco purchased. Pasco guarantees all electronic work. We would be the only emergency boat on the lake operating with FLUR.
- Commissioner Donnell has concerns with the boat as it went from free to \$20,000.00, doesn't see the staff put a plan on this boat, and there is not a finalized SOG on our first boat, and cannot support it.
- Commissioner Simmons—This boat looks like a nice boat, but there are concerns about parking and maintenance issues. He wants to know what the operational plan is and how this boat is going to get to the scene, and he does not feel he can support it at this time.
- Commissioner Jones asked if it could contribute to the water supply at the Yacht club and the surrounding areas.
- Chief Sherman, operationally, its primary benefit is a portable hydrant system as it has a larger capacity for a larger capacity pump, and it has a flat front, which allows us to push up against things along with the open front.
- Commissioner Jones asked what we could get for the boat if we removed the FLUR system and sold it.
- Chief Sherman - boat is valued around \$160,000.00- 180,000.00 given some factors.
- Commissioner Jones - it will give us some different capabilities on the water, and from a financial standpoint, he can't see why we would not do this. Discussed the options of selling the boat.
- Chief Sherman does not want to rush the SOG and wants to do this right. Tim Sullivan has been helping on the SOG.
- Chief Sherman - the potential new boat should be moored in Manson, as it would deploy a boat to our rescue swimmers.



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- Chief Asher - it provides us with another water supply, another platform, and a step closer to Manson.
- Chief Sherman - it would be able to continue its DOE mission.
- Chief Asher - the Crews deployed for EMAC, and we have revenue from that.
- Chairman Donnell still does not see a plan and feels the EMAC took a good chunk of our workforce out of the area, which burdens the workforce here and creates the OT. Our mission is for our citizens of this Fire District. He understands its economics; however, it was not included in the budget. He sees this program as putting a burden on our district. This boat has become more than what it was originally planned for, and he has not seen any training program or documentation for this.
- Chief Sherman agrees we should not be fighting fire with the boat. There is no plan for ship work firefighting capabilities as we do not have the credentials. However, the firefighting capabilities are to put a turret on it for shoreline fires. His concern is that the area we live in is within a high wildfire zone, with limited sources to water near the shoreline, and this is an effective way to do so. We did not have a way to get to the high frequency of drownings, but now we do. They feel they are being pushed in the right direction to obtain a solid plan, and it's a wise way to grow the marine program
- Commissioner Jones - they will not hang onto the boat forever and should make a decision now. If we acquire the boat and decide we cannot come up with a solid plan, then we sell it for more than what we are obtaining it.
- Commissioner Simmons - we are dragging this out far too long today and does not feel he can be convinced that this is a good idea. He has requested a plan before you can put things into play.
- Commissioner Jones expressed his valuable experiences with the boat last year.
- Chairman Donnell stressed this was a good discussion and looks forward to preparing the plan.
- Chairman Donnell stated that the Fire Chief Annual Review per contract has been neglected for some time. Performance evaluation itself is discussed in an open meeting, and the actual evaluation of the Chief will be done in an executive session. He feels this review procedure could be used as a 360 for everyone in the department.
- Commissioner Simmons has some additions to Chairman Donnell's strategic plan.
- Updated Strategic Plan – Commissioner Donnell sent a draft of the plan to the Board and would like to schedule a special meeting to review it. There was a discussion about conducting a performance evaluation with Chief Asher, including the points he would like to address during the review. The special meeting has been scheduled for March 5, 2025, at 3:00 PM to adopt the strategic plan, discuss the performance evaluation process, and review the new Boat SOG

New Business:

- The 2024 annual report draft is complete and ready for your review. If necessary, we can make changes to the special meeting.
- Estimate on ST72 Painting estimate is in \$7,000.00
- Commissioner Donnell asked if that was a steep or a low price
- Chief Sherman - it may be on the low end
- Commissioner Donnell, what did we budget for it
- Chief Asher – We did not; it was a discussion
- Commissioner Jones mentioned discussing the property when we do the strategic planning
- District 5 regionalization update- nothing to report
- Chief Asher sent a copy of SOG 241 to the Board - **Commissioner Jones motioned to APPROVE SOG 241 Wildland TASK BOOK; MOTION CARRIED**
- Chief Asher - 266 is not as far along as he hoped, so that will wait till the next meeting
- **Commissioner Jones motions to APPROVE SOG 250-01; MOTION CARRIED**
- Chief Asher—A resident of the south shore at the Yacht Club is looking for a generator in the event of power outages.
- Chief Asher - we have 2-200 KW generators that we don't have a concrete plan for and could potentially be used in that area. If we were to move forward with this, we could design an agreement for the residents or our crew to start it up regularly.



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- Commissioner Simmons - the bigger issue is that the Yacht Club and Morning Sun do not have a high pump capacity. We would need to have some agreement, and possibly the Yacht club would have a better water supply. He felt that the Yacht Club could provide a better water source. Is there something that must be done to hook this generator up to an outside connection? Chief Asher- Not for a temporary
- Chairman Donnell is on board to make this work
- Commissioner Simmons- How do we want to proceed? Is this something we should put into the strategic plan? Keep the discussion going with the Yacht Club
- Chief Asher – CWDG grant application is on its last two years, proposing to fund seasonals for the next 5 years, which would include six seasonals, a new truck, a coordinator, and potentially a dry hydrant for the Southshore. The application has been extended till the first week of March. Other local agencies currently have many seasonals funded through this program. The Commissioners agreed that Chief Asher should keep pursuing this.
- Commissioner Donnell - the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Resolution, and it will require a lot more reading, so that will be at a later discussion.
- **Commissioner Jones Motioned to Adopt Resolution 2025-02: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF THE BOARD COMMISSIONERS FOR CHELAN FIRE AND RESCUE; The MOTION CARRIED**

Special Events:

- KOZI – Community Connection Thursday, February 21, @ 8:10 a.m. – Fire Chief Asher and Commissioner Jones
- Red Wine and Chocolate Month
- March 10-11-Campbell's Resort Community Risk Reduction Summit
- February 22- The Chelan Firefighter 3rd Annual Stair Climb Auction at Hard Row to Hoe 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- March 15, 2025-Taste Chelan
- March 15-Historic Downtown Chelan-36th Annual Wayne Kelly Top Dog Parade
- March 17-St Patrick's Day

Board for Volunteer Firefighters: None

Public Comment:

Ritch feels the boat would be a great opportunity and sees the benefits of sharing it with Manson. Does Manson have individuals who are trained in it? Chief Asher shared that Manson did have volunteers on the CFR7 boat last year for the Pioneer Fire. Ritch feels it would be a missed opportunity and shares that Tim Hollingsworth is willing to store the boat if we get involved with the Lake Chelan Research Institute. Phil Long would also be interested.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Simmons' biggest complaint over the last few years about attending these meetings is that there was not enough discussion; you can't communicate enough.
- Commissioner Jones- No comment
- Commissioner Donnell appreciates the discussion on the boat while doing it with transparency for the community.
- Chief Asher stressed that the MOB is not a business. There is a benefit to the agency for the funds we receive. We always take into account that we cover our home, and our community comes first.
- Captain Zacher - that it's difficult to put a value on the experience gained by those of us who take the opportunity to work outside the district or on larger incidents, an experience that is often underestimated.
- Commissioner Jones - that if we don't help other districts, we can't expect them to come to help us.
- Chairman Donnell supports MOB but wants us to stay focused on our mission.




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Adjournment: There was no more business before the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Jones MOTIONED to ADJOURN the regular meeting at 4:57; The MOTION CARRIED
Chelan County Fire Protection District 7

Board of Commissioners:


Chairman Mark Donnell


Commissioner Russ Jones


Commissioner Ron Simmons


Attest: Misty L. Fifield, District Secretary