



MINUTES
Chelan Fire and Rescue
Wednesday, August 20, 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

Hillary Franz and District 5 will be attending at 4 P.M.

Roll Call:

Chairman Mark Donnell, Commissioner Russ Jones, Commissioner Ron Simmons, Fire Chief Brandon Asher, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Sherman, and District Secretary Misty Fifield.

Regular Meeting Call to Order: Chairman Donnell called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Approve Agenda: Commissioner Simmons MOTIONED to APPROVE the Agenda as submitted, the MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment:

Superintendent Brad Willson with Lake Chelan School District presented the district with Proposition #1 Bond to replace and renovate deteriorating schools and improve safety.

Consent Agenda: Commissioner Simmons MOTIONED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda as submitted, the MOTION CARRIED.

- Revenue and Expenditure Report: July 2025
- Payroll: 06-23-2025 to 07-23-2025 Paid 008-05-2024 Benefits: \$187,180.83, Salaries/Wages (Net) \$208,186.70 Total \$395,367.53.
- General Account Vouchers 07-04-2025 Transaction #887 - #896 for \$15,729.63; 07/18/2025 Transaction #899 - #924 for \$21,262.33; 07-25-2025 Transaction #951 - #966 for \$14,124.82
- Capital Purchase: 07-05-2025 Transaction # 897 for \$1,397.84, 07-19-2025 Transaction # 925-926 For \$12,933.86
- Minutes: Regular Meeting from July 16, 2025

Commissioner's Report:

- Chairman Donnell asked if there were any questions regarding last month's guest, Hillary Franz. Chief Asher noted that he received an email regarding a follow-up meeting scheduled for the second week of September
- Chairman Donnell is wrapping up the final steps with the Wildfire mitigation workgroup and is ready to send it to the legislator

Fire Chief Report:

- 2025 Budget & Financial Report – June & July
- Emergency Response Report / Community Risk Reduction / Station & Apparatus Update
- The Legislative budget line is currently over budget due to unanticipated committee activities that were not forecasted.
- There has been a rise in volunteer-related expenses, including uniforms, physicals, PPE, and point compensation. The department will submit for reimbursement of \$100 per BVFF physical for each new volunteer
- Additional payments were made to Carol to resolve outstanding backpay issues
- Chairman Donnell shared his perspective on the series of unplanned events that have impacted the budget and operations

Emergency Response Reports:

- July Incident Response Report shows 148 calls for emergency services. Our 10-year average call volume for June is 136 calls. It was the 2nd busiest July in 10 years.
- Rescue/EMS responses accounted for 62% of total calls for service.



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- Effective Work Force: The Effective workforce was very good for large wildland responses and covering stations.
- NO fire loss for July in the district.
- Major incidents for July: 2nd alarm Grand Coulee Rd. 6NE & SR17, 7/20 Body Recovery, 7/6 Lk Chelan Shores Small Brush, 7/2 Apple Acres Brush
- 7/19 Asher was STL for the MC strike team to Lake Spokane. We've had 3 immediate-needed mobilization responses to Okanogan County: 2 in Omak and 1 Studhorse, Winthrop.
- B72 and STL Zacher mobilized to the Crescent Fire in Lincoln County
- Chairman Donnell inquired about the update of the annual call volume presentation that was used in the past year with Emergency Reporting. Chief Asher shared that his goal is to have accurate times and reports in 2026

Administration:

- CWDG grant proposal has made it through the grading system. They are now expecting to start announcing in mid-September.
- SAFER grant should start announcing by the end of August. Last year they announced a few first week and then it picked up.
- 2nd mechanic position update: LCCH and CC8 have not seen a financial benefit to it. We are exploring other ways to possibly provide some part-time help. Commissioners stressed that CF7 is a priority over those who opted out
- Firefighters Rice, Steady, and Preheim have moved to 1st-class Firefighter.
- I've talked with USDA about grants. They said that full "grants" are almost nonexistent through them now. This is due to appropriations. I'll be reaching back out to Mike Steele.
- We're working on the next phase of First Due. Vehicle Maintenance and Reporting
- DCP calculations on State Mobilization have not been collected in our history until now. We should have been made whole, and I talked with the State about this.
- The criteria for PUD shut-offs are confidential. However, it is known that sustained winds around 40 mph, along with other factors, may trigger a shut-off
- The City of Chelan is conducting a facilities feasibility study and exploring potential new locations for City Hall, including a site across the street. I am following up with Chad regarding potential costs and exploring the possibility of including our building in their assessment as an add-on, which could help reduce expenses. Both the City and I are interested in potential grant opportunities that may arise from this collaboration. Chairman Donnell requested to be kept informed on any developments.

Community Risk Reduction/Events

- Cop and Fire on Top Event was held at Safeway. The event raised almost \$2000.
- National Night Out was a success and a great event to be a part of.

Apparatus Status:

- The canopy has been installed on CH72.
- B71 experienced an issue with the wiring harness sensor, which has been replaced. We anticipate the vehicle will be back in service by Tuesday of next week.

Stations:

- Chief Sherman- 71 generator update. Generator testing to take place on Saturday and it works
- Freon added to the workout room AC
- Thank you to A-Shift for painting our flagpole and getting a new flag put on.
- One of the hose reels on Bullard's rotted out. They've all been taken down and will be a project assigned



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Long Range Discussion:

- Any long-range topics that have been brought to anyone's attention?
- Continuing discussion with Manson

Assistant Fire Chief Report

Operations:

- The budget request for Station 75 has been fulfilled. All items have been purchased, except the couch
- Fire & Cop on Top Event: Duty crew, Ron Pilukas, Ashton Moody, Sherman, and Karla
- Overall winner of the squirt gun fight goes to Captain Rain's son. I will be recommending him for a Purple Heart commendation for cold injuries suffered during battle.
- During the squirt gun fight, a large station tour was held for the winners of the auction

Recruitment:

- Two new members for the following stations: Station 71 gained 1, Station 73 gained 1
- A planning meeting for the Station 73 Open House was held on Monday, August 8th. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Station 73. It will include dinner and a social gathering. All members are invited to attend

Retention

- Member Dillon Kenner is moving out of the area in October. Stipend Coverage

Stipend coverage:

- No shift staffing currently.
- We have 5 volunteers participating in Staffing Station 75- rotations that work on their own private schedules

Training:

- Chelan is Hosting the RDD Volunteer Academy Starting in January 2026

Apparatus:

- Brush 71 \$6800 quote for all repairs: Instrument dash, wiring harness, sensors.

Prevention,

- FLSI Inspections 4 completed in the last 30 days, 2 Calls for Firewise home assessments completed, 2 Daycare inspections, and the water tank in Washington Creek is filling.

Facilities:

- Generator repair completed.
- Station 74 Bay Door damaged & repaired.
- Station 73 Damage: No update other than meeting with a contractor tomorrow
- A young man expressed interest in the siren from Station 72. Chief Sherman informed him that the district cannot give away public property, but would permit him to refurbish it. There is consideration of relocating the siren to Station 73, where it could be activated in coordination with town events or alerts
- Chairman Donnell informed us that they were able to gain access to another road (access road) that goes down to Purtteman Gulch

Firefighters Association Report: None

Unfinished Business:

- TIF- no update
- 100-Year Anniversary Celebration We've had two planning meetings with Sharon Crosetto, who used to do events as her job. We're finalizing who our committee is going to be, completing tasks for parts of the event. We are timing this with Earth Day, which has had shrinking numbers. They are excited to have us help boost attendance that day.



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- Security Cameras- Commissioner Jones met with Stetner Electric and is waiting on an estimate

New Business:

- New Utility Vehicle Discussion: Jason contacted the WVFD fleet manager for a cost estimate on a new Tahoe they are purchasing. Cost is \$57,000 under the state bid. I feel we need to consider a new staff vehicle. The Tahoe has every dashboard light you can have on currently. It is unsafe to take out of the district.
- Chairman Donnell feels it should be moved to the 2026 budget for capital, and it is a valid discussion
- Chairman Simmons questions if this fits into the Apparatus plan, Chief Asher confirmed it does
- Chairman Donnell feels we need to update the Apparatus plan accordingly, but consider what is the best plan
- Chief Sherman updated the Boat SOG with Manson and has gone back and forth for adjustments, and the attorney has reviewed it and requested a meeting with Chief Asher and Chief Sherman
- Discussion of changing the Board of Commissioners from 3 to 5 Commissioners benefits-Broader representation of the community, more thorough discussion, allows for committee work to occur without a quorum, and equal representation in future discussions with other agencies. Drawbacks- It will cost the district more.
- Chairman Donnell shared his thoughts on the matter, emphasizing the importance of a distributed workload. He agreed it is worth considering further and requested that the discussion remain open
- Commissioner Simmons sees the points; however, he does not see how it will improve what we currently have going
- Commissioner Jones is willing to look at other options but is comfortable with 3 members
- Chairman Donnell proposed organizing a traveling workshop with the Board and Chiefs to visit each station together. The purpose is to review station-specific challenges and assess whether current apparatus are the best fit for each location. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. He requested that a comprehensive list be prepared outlining the specific issues at each station, along with any apparatus concerns, to support a thorough evaluation.
- Special Meeting: Board of Commissioners and Fire Chief Relations / Board and Staff Relations-Eric Quinn recommended establishing a policy that clearly defines the responsibilities of the Commissioners, as well as those of the staff and administration

Special Events:

- KOZI – Community Connection Thursday, August 21. – Chief Asher and Commissioner Simmons
- Farmers Market – Thursdays 2-6
- 08-30-2025 Cultura on the Lake – 5 pm downtown Chelan
- 09-05-2025 Fall onto Lake Chelan Car Show
- 8/30-9/1 Labor Day Weekend
- 9/6 Chelan Man Marathon
- 9/18/2025 St 73 Open house

Board for Volunteer Firefighters:

- None

Public Comment:

- Do we know what they will charge for them to come in and access the building? Chief Asher mentioned, not yet

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Jones asked if the Chamber has considered the parking lot across from ST 71

The next scheduled Regular Commissioner meeting is September 17, 2025



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Executive Session: None

Adjournment: There was no more business before the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Simmons MOTIONED to ADJOURN the regular meeting at 4:07 . The MOTION CARRIED

Chelan County Fire Protection District 7 Board of Commissioners:

X 

Mark Donnell
Chairman

X 

Russ Jones
Commissioner

X

Ron Simmons
Commissioner

X 

Misty Field
District Secretary