

Chelan County Fire District No. 5
250 West Manson Blvd.
Manson, WA 98831
April 14, 2020
Regular Meeting of Commissioners

Commissioners Conference Call: Dan Baker, Dana Starkweather and John Spencer.

Others On Call: Chief Arnold Baker, Training Officer Karen Sargeant, Chris Willoughby, Fred Weiss and Administrative Assistant Reggie Trusel.

Call to Order: Commissioner Baker called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. No Flag salute, due to Regular meeting suspended.

Pension Board: None

Public Comment: None

Minutes: The Meeting Minutes for the Regular meeting on March 10, 2019 were presented, Commissioner Baker motioned to approve Minutes, Commissioner Spencer seconded; Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Invoices: Commissioner Starkweather motioned to affirm the Voucher FD51 in the amount of \$18,317.78 , Commissioner Spencer seconded; Motion passed unanimously. Chief Baker spoke about including the invoice for EMS Vehicle Ambulance 3151 repair, while waiting for open appointment with Cascade Fire & Safety. Target Solutions (Online Training) will be replacing current 24/7 Training. Target Solutions is a little more costly program but well worth it, \$100 per seat.

Financial Report: Presented and reviewed. Tax revenue is rolling in. Revenue started posting first of April - \$55,000 thus far. No further comment.

New Business:

- **Equipment Replacement:** Purchase for 2008 Sterling Aerial Snuzzle Pumper-(FTR) Fire Truck Resource located in Saunemin Illinois. Chief Baker updated, we are currently waiting for Alexis factory dealer to complete an overall inspection on this engine. Once we have report back, Chief Baker with Commissioners input will be able to make a reasonable offer. Asking price is \$189,000.

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Old Business:

- Company Calendar; Chief Baker is participating on weekly conference calls regarding Covid-19 updates.
WA Fire Commissioner Conference at Chelan Campbell's Resort, currently waiting to see if this annual conference will be postponed or cancelled due to Covid-19.
- ZBA Architecture: Station 52
Chief Baker sent Architect, Randy Vanhoff an email with copy of MRSC roster list of building contractors. If possible, Chief Baker would like to receive at least five bids from local contractors. There will be a County hearing re: Conditional Use Permit on April 15th.
- Electric Sign Update: None
- Pre-Fire Plans: Due to Covid-19 our community plans are postponed at this time.

EMS Report: None

Training Officer Report: Karen Sargeant

***Further Discussion for Training Report**

Commissioner Starkweather commented, he appreciates all the hard work Karen is putting in, all commissioners were in agreement.

Training burn April 13th went really well with 20 volunteers present. The land owner is very happy and gave a \$500 donation to the Manson Fire Association. The burn was fairly small but volunteers were able to see a lot of good fire behavior with some wind experience. Good broad spectrum of fire training.

Commissioner Spencer requested a count of new and dropped certified volunteers each month as part of the Training Officer Report.

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Assistant Chief's Report: Kermit McClellan None

Chiefs Report:

***Additional Discussion for Chiefs Report**

Facilities: Station 52 Addition - CUP Hearing will be on April 15, 2020. Commercial building permits are typically processed within 2 weeks, making our goal to have the building permit by May 11th and hopefully receive sufficient bids by May 29th. If need, Chief Baker suggested having a “special meeting” prior to Regular Commissioner Meeting, May 12th to expedite discussion regarding possible bids from contractors. He would like to filter through bids and start lining up contractors, checking references etc..

Discussion was made, regarding collecting deposit's of \$200 each from perspective Contractors who will be bidding / receiving blue print copies. Chief Baker and Commissioners suggested possibly waiving this fee, and have the department absorb this cost. Blue Print / Spec document, is 192 pages.

2008 Sterling Aerial Snozzle Pumper: This engine is currently in rout to the Alexis factory for a complete overall inspection, scheduled April 15th. Once inspection report has been completed, the Service Manager will create an estimate for any repairs needed. Testing will include; Hydraulic system, Pumps etc. The factory inspection *cost* can be included in our May Vouchers or can be paid via wire transfer if necessary. Chief suggested a rough cost estimate for the inspection to be around \$1,000. Once he has reviewed the complete report he will share all findings with Commissioners and then proceed in making a potential offer.

Fire Prevention: Outdoor Burning-Chief Baker commented the current Fire Ban date of June 1st could be moved up due to weather conditions. At the last monthly Kozi Radio interview; Chief Baker made the announcement to “get your burning finished up soon”. The Chief explained he has to consider what is best for our district and will have to be restrictive if need be. There are districts wanting to close burning now.

Public Comment: None

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Adjournment: Commissioner Baker closed meeting with no additional business before the Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 5:11 pm.

Chelan County Fire District 5 Board of Commissioners:

Commissioner Chairman Dan Baker

Commissioner John Spencer

Commissioner Dana Starkweather

**Attest: Regenia Trusel
District Secretary**



Manson Fire Department

Chelan County Fire District 5

P.O. Box D Manson WA 98831-0438

mansonfire.org

Chiefs Report

April 14, 2020

Incidents

27 Calls for service in the month of March; 24 within Fire District 5 and 3 out of the District. Fire responded to 8 calls within District 5.

In District 5; 1 Structure fire on Totem Pole-It is believed the fire started in the attic and was smoldering for an extended time before noticed, 4 Authorized Controlled burning, 1 Good intent call-a call to 911 for the house that was our training burn, 2 calls to Assist EMS crew.

EMS responded to 18 medical calls in District 5. 16 Calls EMS handled without Fire, and 2 with assistance of Fire.

Out of District; 3 Medical calls.

March Call Times;

Fire Call Processing was at 1:35, Arrival on scene at 13:24.

EMS Call Processing was at 1:49, Arrival on scene at 8:42.

Of the 24 dispatches in District 5, 19 calls were compliant to NFPA 1221, for call processing for 79.2%. Of the 24 responses in District 5, 21 calls were compliant to Fire District 5 benchmark of 12:00 minutes for 87.5%.

Since the structure fire in early March, our only fire calls are “turn in my neighbor because I don’t like your fire”. I think this is the product of people moving here from an area that couldn’t have fire, to our area where fire is essential to clear property for agricultural purposes and land clearing prevention.

Ninety day forecast is warmer than normal and drier than normal. Part of my radio program is going to touch on this need for residents to do land clearing and to do it soon. I explain why do in the Prevention section.

Personnel and Training

Training for March consisted of an All-Hands meeting to cover organizational issues – participation expectations – financial opportunities in the District’s point system. The Haz-Mat Awareness & Operations class met for the first weekend, the instructor then went to using Zoom video-conferencing with the plan to catch the practical evolutions when Covid is over. Other training was at the big house to be burned with Search & Rescue, Ventilation and using the Scott Air Pack Finder unit. The live burn went well on the first house at 87 Madeline Rd. Our last drill was Medical OTEP (OB/GYN module). The 2nd house is currently on hold, if Covid doesn’t last too long we may still get to burn.

I have shut down our use of 24/7 Online web services. The site was good for racking up training time. The content was too shallow for what we needed. I have started a new service with TargetSolutions. We have more flexibility to provide the level of training the individual needs, the Firefighting Essentials that will prepare for testing. It cost \$350 for setup and \$100 per user, per year. I believe we will receive far more value that the addition cost over the 24/7 system. We can take any of our own training material or a YouTube video and make an assignment to as many as we choose. We can build timers into the video that have to be viewed and not advanced fast-forward. We can also insert our own test questions.

I have Karen taking the Wildland Refresher she had planned for classroom and putting it into the system so we can make good use of this down time.

The house burn that was to take place on March 28th is on hold. At the time of writing this report, I had a conversation with the contractor for 50 Rutherford Lane. They are on shut down, just like us to be able to burn the house. They are good to wait till Covid stay at home order is over. I'm concerned that this could drag out past burn closure. We aren't under the same rules as the public, but need to be an example of the rules we make.

Recruitment & Retention

One new recruit, Zach Phelps a college student, home now thru summer. We have him working on Wildland Red Card self-study training.

Facilities and Equipment

Dan and I had a very productive conference call with our Architect, Randy Vanhoff. The drawings are very close to being ready. We cleaned up a short list of issues in the plans.

Our Conditional Use Permit Amendment will be before the Hearing Examiner on April 15th at 1:00pm via video-conferencing. I will attend by the web link they provide. We should be able to apply for the Building Permit very soon.

We have an advantage of an essential building during the "Stay Home" Proclamation. This may bring out more bidders and enthusiasm during the shutdown. Because we are subscribers in MRSC, we call in local contractors on the MRSC list and bid from that group. Shorten the time window by nearly a month with MRSC. The Conditional Use Permit has a 10 day window for a decision after the Hearing before it is granted, then we can file for the Building Permit. Our Architect is prepping the Building Permit application now.

Alexis Snuzzle – Consensus of the Commissioners was we needed more information from an independent party. I have had a few emails with the Alexis Sales Manager Stan Froelich. He was working with the Service Manager, Brian Dillbeck. Brian oversees all the Snuzzle units at Alexis. He reviews the annual pump test data, and oversees all the repairs, as he did for this Washburn Snuzzle. The 2014 incident when the tip was in a good location till the wind shifted and the boom then had heat damage. The boom wasn't damaged as heated temperatures were only for a brief time. Enough time the wiring and nozzle motors were affected. Alexis did part of the work and then subbed out to a company in Texas that specializes in aerial repairs.

Brian has contacted the Chief in Washburn as of 4/7/20, to request that he come and do a pump test with a complete inspection. I have asked Brian to give us a written report on his findings. If an item needed repair, then to include a cost to repair at the Alexis shop. I asked Brian to more specifically inspect the hydraulic system that would include the entire boom. We should hear shortly when that could happen.

I will be a Peer Reviewer for the AFG Grant the week of April 20th thru the 24th. I have completed my training and will do all my grant review work from the office. I have asked the Officers to cover me so that I could give full attention to the task. In grant review we work as teams, as much as possible we need to be available during the same hours.

Chelan County Emergency Management submitted a grant to WA Department of Ecology for several items. In that award is a Spill Response Trailer stocked with boom and materials, a 5-gas monitor (Oxygen %, Carbon Monoxide ppm, Lower Explosive Limit, Hydrogen Cyanide, and the 5th detection we have had before is Ammonia ppm) for District 5 and training to use these items. We were passed over 10 years ago in the same grant system. I kept mentioning the importance of the Spill Response with our close access to the Sheriff's boat, Marine 1.

RiverCom

RiverCom has blocked all outside interaction with users except phone and electronic devices. Dispatchers are a couple steps above social distancing. We can't afford to send the dispatchers home till it's over or have them work from home. Meetings are essential only.

The Shared Funding agreement issue is on hold till we can have a workshop meeting to discuss.

The Board meeting via Zoom on April 8th was essential business followed by a closed session with their attorney.

Prevention

In Chelan County, outdoor burning closes on June 1st every year. From my conference call with Eastern Washington fire agencies (Federal, State and County agencies) The Federal and State agencies are having their fire crews work from home currently. In the event of a fire call out, the crews assemble and respond. The State & Feds have plans to close burning, not on burn conditions but rather availability of crews. If Covid effects fire crews, then burning will close.

As the Fire Advisory Chair, I presented this same status to the Fire Districts in Chelan County and to the County Commissioners. If any District has crews effected that change response, we close burning in the County to minimize risk and callouts. I am sending KOZI a request for a Public Service Announcement to inform that the burn closure could change.

APRIL TRAINING REPORT

Hazmat Awareness/Operations Class:

I spoke with Insource, Inc. and they were going to contact WSP about possibly doing the class using a meeting web service like Zoom to finish the lectures. They said they would contact me if they received permission to do that. Have not heard from them yet.

Updating Training Files:

I have made copies of all the certificates that we have in the firefighters' personnel folders. I will be organizing them by date. I will be looking for the introduction certificates for wildland and command structure information. I will also be making copies of original certificates and returning the originals back to the firefighters. They need to keep all of their original certificates.

Effects of COVID-19 on Training/Drills

Of course, COVID-19 has us postponing regular drills. The firefighters have been coming in to do independent drills. We have stressed to them to write down their time completing the drills. I have been entering these into the data base program so that they get credit for anything they do.

Recruitment/Retention

I have added a new member to our ranks. His name is Zach Phelps and he is a Junior at Western Washington University. He will be here all summer and will leave to go back to school in September. I have him starting the introductory online classes for wildland and command structure. He comes back and forth from the west side during the school term and will respond to station 51 when he is in town. I encouraged him to look into joining a volunteer fire department over near Bellingham to continue to get training and experience. I think he will be a great asset to us and our community.