

**Chelan County Fire District No. 5**  
**250 West Manson Blvd.**  
**Manson, WA 98831**  
**August 9, 2022**  
**Regular Meeting of Commissioners**

**Commissioners Present:** Dan Baker, Dana Starkweather and Fred Weiss.

**Others Present:** Chief Arnold Baker, District Secretary Reggie Trusel, Firefighter Association President Chris Willoughby, Lieutenant Raynor Baker.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Chairman Starkweather called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The Flag salute commenced.

**Pension Board:** Opened: 4:31 pm. Chief Baker reported the department has two new volunteers that were submitted to BVFF and one accident report that is pending.  
Pension Board Closed 4:32 pm.

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** Chairman Starkweather presented the Regular meeting Minutes from July 12th. Commissioner Baker Motioned to approve Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Weiss, seconded; Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Chief Baker suggested moving \$ 35,000.00 from Investment account to the Expense account. Commissioner Baker Motioned to approve the transfer of \$35,000.00 from Investment to the Expense account, Commissioner Weiss, seconded; Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Invoices:** Commissioner Weiss, Motioned to affirm August Voucher FD51 in the amount of \$23,990.38 and Voucher FD52 in the amount of \$1,602.92, Commissioner Baker seconded; Motion passed unanimously.  
Commissioners discussed a couple items from the Voucher list: Hydrotest expense and Command truck fuel pump system repair cost.

**New Business:**

- **New Volunteer Recruitment:** Commissioner Weiss briefed the Board he had heard from five different Fire Chiefs, and they all share the concern over the low recruit numbers for this wildland fire-season. Commissioner Weiss asked if we felt the department had enough volunteer responders to meet the current incident calls. Lt. Raynor Baker communicated, he felt the department is meeting the incident needs and is seeing a good turn out to each call. Association President Chris Willoughby explained for a “structure fire” the need is for at least 15 responders. Chief Baker reiterated our volunteer members are growing, two new recruits came on board last month and now two more joining this month.

Commissioner Weiss inquired how we could better advertise the need for Hispanic Bilingual volunteers, male and female. He shared a couple of ideas; Kozi Sunday

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program announcements and Spanish language-sandwich board outside of the downtown fire station. Chief Baker commented how our current sign has been a big draw for the department. The Board agreed to pursue those avenues and work with our local media.

Chief Baker informed the Board the rental manger from the four buildings on Chandler Road reached out to the department a few weeks ago. Coldwell Banker rental manager Joleen Baker would like to have the department give their tenants a demonstration on how to use a fire extinguisher. She would also like to have smoke alarms installed in all of the units. Chief Baker reached out to Lake Chelan Building Supply for a quote on a sealed battery photoelectric sensor alarm that comes with a built in 10-year lithium-ion battery. The Chief indicated LCBS is willing to give the Firefighters Association a discounted price. For this complex, he suggested using an alarm system with a “quiet-button” to push for resetting.

**Old Business:**

- **Company Calendar:**

Chief Baker briefed the Board on the upcoming Calendar meetings. He also noted the volunteer Firefighter drill dates and topics for the next two months.

2022 WFCFA Annual Conference: Davenport Hotel in Spokane, October 27-29.

Registration is now open and indicated we have four rooms reserved for the Commissioners. Commissioner Weiss and Chief Baker confirmed they will be attending. Kozi Radio interview will be this Friday, August 12th.

- **Station 52 Irrigation:**

Chief Baker gave the Board a new update to Station 52 sprinkler project. He suggested putting on hold until Chelan County CPIF Grant awards are announced. The award funds will be put towards the departments, Fire Training Center. The Chief met with Ryan Dell owner of the RV campground on the corner of Wapato and Roses Avenue. The Chief explained to him, Station 52 property expansion: Live Fire Training Center (burn boxes) and future helipad. The Chief indicated Ryan liked the idea of putting the helipad near the campground and having the burn boxes on the other side of the property, keeping the smoke further away. Commissioner Baker reiterated putting the burn boxes on the Northwest corner would be more logical than on the northeast corner and once we are notified of the grant decision, we will know how to proceed with finishing the sprinkler project.

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Chief Baker gave each Board member a quote from Bunker Container & Storage. He pointed out the Officers discussed the affordability in getting more containers than originally planned. The Chief summarized even if the grant does not happen, we can still purchase the containers and keep them for when we are able to do the Fire Training Center project. Consensus from the Board was to proceed with purchasing the five containers from Bunker Container & Storage (1-20', 4-40').

- **Pre-Fire Plans:** None
  
- **Training Coordinator Position:**

Chairman Starkweather noted the Commissioners have now received five applicant resumes, the next step is to set up a schedule with interview dates. Chairman Starkweather suggested forwarding the two page "Job Description" to the applicants. He recommended to the Board, going into "Executive Session" for 15 minutes to discuss further details pertaining to the Training Coordinator Position. Commissioners left the open meeting and started Executive Session at 5:44 pm and resumed the open meeting at 6:00 pm.

Chairman Starkweather explained the "position will need to be further defined." He summarized it will include working daytime hours, approximately 20 hours per week depending on experience. Salary will start at \$40,000 per year and will include benefits. The Board felt the position should be filled by someone not holding an "Officer" position. The Board discussed the possible dates for holding interviews and the length of time for each applicant's interview.

Chief Baker predicted after interviewing each applicant Commissioners will see how many hours each can commit to the position. He advised the Board; the interview process should also give them enough information to determine if certain applicants are capable of holding their current officer position while doing duties of a Training Coordinator.

The Board concluded they will have Chief Baker send an email to the five applicants with employment details along with interview dates/times.
  
- **Recruitment:** Chief Baker is glad to have an additional two new volunteers; Doug Morgan 5 year veteran from Chelan Fire District 7 and Briar Soliday from Manson.

**EMS Report:** None

**Assistant Chief's Report:** None

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**Chiefs Report:**

**\*Additional Discussion for Chiefs Report**

**Facilities and Equipment:**

**Battery Powered Extrication Tools:**

Chief Baker briefed the Board members on how the two-extrication demonstration went. He informed the two main contenders were Hurst and Homatro brands. The Officers voted for Hurst brand 4-1. The Hurst representative was able to give a significant discount off of the demo tools used the night of the demonstration (\$13,930). Chief Baker also discussed the need for two venting fans, extra batteries, and glass cutters. The Chief displayed the budget spreadsheet for the Commissioners to view, explaining the department will still be under budget and able to cover the costs of upgrading these specific extrication tools. The Board discussed all of the tool price quotes, the consensus was to move ahead with the purchase of “Hurst” brand; 1- Cutter, 1-Spreader, 1-Ram package, 2-venting fans, collapsible step chocks, and needed batteries. The 2-glass cutters will be ordered through a different vendor.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Starkweather closed the meeting with no additional business before the Commissioners; the meeting adjourned 6:19 pm.

**Chelan County Fire District 5 Board of Commissioners:**

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**Commissioner Chairman Dana Starkweather**

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**Commissioner Fred Weiss**

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**Commissioner Dan Baker**

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**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

August 9, 2022

### Incidents

52 Calls for service in the month of July; 31 within Fire District 5 and 21 out of District. Fire responded to 18 calls within District 5.

In District 5; 1 Structure fire, 1 Smoke detector malfunction, 1 MVA with injuries, 2 MVA with no injuries, 1 Odor of smoke, 1 Authorized burning, 1 Smoke detector malfunction, 1 Sprinkler activation (Dry system charged), 2 Dispatched & cancelled, and 7 Assist EMS.

Out of District 5; 1 Brush-and-grass fire, 1 Dispatched & cancelled.

EMS responded to 20 medical calls in District 5. 12 Calls EMS handled without Fire, 1 Unintentional medical alarm, and 7 with assistance of Fire.

Out of District 5; 9 EMS Calls, 1 Water rescue, 1 MVA with injuries and 8 Dispatched & cancelled calls. July Call Times;

Fire Call Processing was at 1:15, Arrival on scene at 7:10.

EMS Call Processing was at 1:49, Arrival on scene at 11:15.

Of the 31 dispatches in District 5, 24 calls were compliant to NFPA 1221, for call processing for 77.4%.

Of the 29 responses in District 5, 24 calls were compliant to Fire District 5 benchmark of 12:00 minutes for 82.8%.

### Personnel and Training

Training in July consisted of;

7/4 No Officer meeting

7/5 Ropes Knots & Low Angle Harness – 11 attended

7/12 Extrication demo with Hurst & Genesis tools – 16 attended

7/18 OTEP (Altered mentation & combative patient module) – 8 EMTs attended

7/19 Driver & pump operator concerns – 13 attended

7/26 Water rescue – 13 attended

### Recruitment & Retention

Colin & Alex are continuing to work on their initial training. Both have completed the wildland course and practical training. Now waiting for the Tower to return as it is a portion of the worktest (work capacity test).

We have a new firefighter that had been a firefighter in Chelan 7, 5 years ago. Doug has completed his Firefighter 2 and Wildland Redcard. Some paperwork and refresher and he will be good to go.

### Facilities and Equipment

Chelan County CPIF Grant – I did the presentation of the proposal on July 28<sup>th</sup>. I think the session went well. Received word that the County Commissioners (BOCC) with their calendar and vacations, it will be August 30<sup>th</sup> before the BOCC receives the recommendations. The Commissioners may award or choose to wait before making a decision. In our officer meeting we discussed options for surface, adding additional containers, making 1 burn room or multiple burn rooms. Would like to have a discussion about rearranging the modules I presented in a plan. Possibly moving the training center

to another corner. Ryan Dell who is building the campground adjacent to the station, I am meeting with on Tuesday before the Commissioner meeting. Getting neighbor support is preferable.

AFG Grant – This is our truck replacement grant. After all the waiting, AFG started a small group of awards on July 29<sup>th</sup>. We can expect to see a new award list each Friday for a couple of months.

DNR Equipment Grant – The WA DNR 1168 grant, is for another \$100,000 to complete the AFG grant. We believe the DNR is watching AFG like everyone else. Then they would make awards to agencies like ours, that are dependent on an AFG award.

S-52 Irrigation – The irrigation system is on hold for the moment. Where the training center and helipad get located will change where the mainline is installed.

Tower-51 – We have had some parts orders that have stretched the time. In some email exchanges with Mark Merritt, owner of Cascade Fire. We are looking at the current issue of getting a specific relay switch. Darryl, our trainer last year from E-One, is the Bronto parts guy in the US. There isn't our relay in the US. Now Finland is trying to get that relay. I have asked, if the relay is on backorder, we will bring the truck home. The backorder is an unknown time. I have also asked for a current cost estimate to date. Should have this information before Board meeting.

Tools – With the 3 extrication tool demos, I'm gathering the officer and senior firefighter evaluations. I will come to the meeting prepared to discuss financial status and how tool purchases would effect the budget. In the Hurst tool demo, also shown was a battery powered positive pressure vent fan. I haven't seen a fan I liked till this one was demo'd. I believe you have the quote for 2 vent fans in your packet. There are some additional small supporting equipment for extrication in the quotes. I have one quote for the tools used in the demo. Trying to get the other brand to give that demo set quote. I will put it all together in an Excel. It will make it easier to get to the bottom line. I believe there are items from each vendor we will want. Will try to keep it the least confusing as possible.

## **RiverCom**

The building site assessment is going on now. In discussions with Central Washington Interagency Communication Center (CWICC), they are highly interested in co-locating, they will not be able to move forward to match RiverCom's timeline. RiverCom's plan now is to bring in enough infrastructure to support the addition of CWICC, then also plan RiverCom's building to match up to CWICC at a later date.

The RiverCom staff is working hard now to prepare for a September 7<sup>th</sup> budget workshop.

Dispatch floor staffing is building back up. We are near the time of eliminating mandatory overtime as it our goal by the end of the year. There will always be voluntary overtime, which gives opportunity to those that want it. Mandatory overtime is hard on morale.

## **Prevention**

Again have not have enough time to work on pre-fire plans in the past month.

Wayne has worked on the Mobile Mapping and getting closer to finishing this project. I have communicated with Hillary at Fire District 1, we have a remaining \$4,122.57 balance of available grant funds to draw on. The grant funds are to be used to cover 75% of Wayne's labor doing this project. We have made one draw on the grant about a year ago. We have lots of hours with Wayne's work since then to be submitted. So close to the end I would like to make one last submittal.

A new USDA Forest Service grant opened on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG). I contacted the Fuels Specialist at the Chelan Ranger District to look at the Emerson Acres road. One issue is brush within 50' of the road that risks fire crews going in and residents coming out during a wildfire. The other issue I identified is road steepness in a particular section. That section is where the road crosses Forest Service property. So the question they are working on answering; Can grant funds be used of USFS property that benefit the community on the other side? If the answer is yes, then we could have a huge benefit to the Emerson Acres community with only a 10% cost match. I have not approached the Emerson homeowner association yet till I get more information. The Emerson association president is also one of our firefighters. More to come on this.