

Chelan County Fire Protection District No. 5
250 West Manson Blvd.
Manson, WA 98831
Workshop Meeting of Commissioners
Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

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

Others Present: Chief Arnold Baker, District Secretary Reggie Trusel, Assistant Chief Kermit McClellan, Captain's: Nick Glenn, and Adam Rasmussen, Lieutenant's: Beau Alanis, Firefighter Association President Chris Willoughby and via Zoom, Lieutenant Raynor Baker.

Call to Order: Commissioner Starkweather, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
The Flag salute commenced.

Items for Discussion:

Chairman Starkweather thanked the Officers for joining the workshop and expressed how the Board is looking forward to hearing their thoughts on how they can contribute more to the training program.

- **Training Program**

Chairman Starkweather began the meeting touching on the main topic and emphasizing the focus on how the department can make improvements with the current training program.

The Officers were asked to estimate which duties they are able to fulfill and how many hours they can provide to the program. They will need to work these duties into their regular schedules and will be compensated for their time.

The Board and Officers concluded there are two separate parts of training (hands-on and administrative). The hands-on-training would include drills with volunteers and the administrative part, would involve classroom teaching and tracking each volunteer as to how they are moving forward with their individual training.

The Officers deliberated each of their own circumstances and shared how they are currently managing the "existing" training hours. Assistant Chief McClellan stressed the need to keep up with proficiency. Lieutenant Baker explained the need to have our program be in line with WAC and NFPA standards. Captain Glenn agreed to take on -Structural training and expressed he would like to be more involved with developing the program. He commented how well the Live Fire training burn went, with many volunteers attending. Lieutenant Alanis reminded the Board how including volunteer "mentoring" would be beneficial to the program. Discussion was made to keep the training more interesting by starting drills with some inside classroom time then bringing volunteers outside for hands-on fire training. Chief Baker reiterated the need to teach "blended learning" and how that keeps the volunteers engaged.

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Public Comment: Association President Willoughby commented how in the past as a certified volunteer he was doing some of the training for a brief time. He advocated using the certified volunteers for training could be beneficial and help support the Officers, training role. He also mentioned the importance of developing and giving our new recruits an orientation packet when they begin their training.

Captain Rasmussen emphasized how the current participation demand is overloading his own schedule right now. He agreed with the consensus of the other Officers a “Training Coordinator” would benefit the department and help expand their current training capabilities.

Chief Baker reiterated doing simply basic training is not enough, stressed the need to keep a high level of training. The Chief summarized how he would like to see someone placed as an official “Training Officer” who can collaborate with our current Officer team and be qualified to meet the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard requirements. He recognized the Officers experience and history with the department and their ability to provide a lot of the training but concerned about what would be missing in the program.

Chairman Starkweather shared the Boards appreciation in giving their comments and concluded they will be discussing further at the next Commissioner Meeting.

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Adjournment: Commissioner Starkweather closed meeting with no additional business before the Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Chelan County Fire District 5 Board of Commissioners:

Commissioner Chairman Dana Starkweather

Commissioner Fred Weiss

Commissioner Dan Baker

Attest: Regenia Trusel
District Secretary