

Chelan County Fire Protection District No. 5
250 West Manson Blvd.
Manson, WA 98831
Workshop Meeting of Commissioners
Wednesday, August 25, 2021 @ 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, Lieutenant Raynor Baker, Lieutenant Beau Alanis, Captain Adam Rasmussen, Captain Nick Glenn, and Firefighter Association President Chris Willoughby

Call to Order: Commissioner Starkweather, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The Flag salute commenced.

Items for Discussion:

- **Equipment Status and Replacement:**

Chief Baker started the meeting with displaying the *Excel Model* of equipment currently in inventory and what the replacement forecast looks like. The Board / Officers were able to see what the replacement schedule shows for each vehicle-engine. (Purchase price for each Engine, Year purchased, Life cycle, Year the engines will have to be replaced and what the cost would be for each engine the time of replacement.) Those cost includes 5% inflation. The Chief's projection for the next vehicle needing replaced would be Command Truck-5 within the next 10 years. Commissioner Starkweather asked about the FEMA Grant we're currently waiting to hear about. The Chief informed the awards should be announced any time. He advised the grant would help the department with a Type 3 engine (sister truck to E-54). The grant amount we asked for \$333,767.00, with a grant match of \$17,000.00, that would cover the cost of a custom-built engine. Another engine the Chief thought would be a good contender for potential grant is replacement for our Type 6 engine-Brush Truck 52 currently at Station 52.

Chief Baker continued down the *Model* list of all equipment, Radios, Pagers, Tools, Bunker Gear, PPE, Hoses. He concluded with the replacement schedule for each of those items. He expressed how things look positive with the scheduled projections. Regarding grants, he predicts our chances get better each year we apply/reapply.

- **Personnel:**

Chief Baker moved onto our current personnel. He noted how the volunteer turnout is improving and how the Points program we offer is a valuable incentive. He showed on the *Model* the departments current personnel length of service and what level firefighter/EMT status they hold. We currently have between 28-30 volunteers (approximately 20 active). Captain Adam Ramussen noted he is seeing better

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attendance than just the core group at each drill. Chief Baker reiterated how the volunteers are an important piece of our culture and they are a part of the community who really want to commit to helping and grow our department. He expressed what our focus needs to be in keeping the volunteers interested and engaged. Putting them out on an active incident helps to also make them feel their time / participation means something.

- **Training:**

The Chief confirmed the importance in keeping skill level up with our volunteer training. He summarized how using multiple senses when experiencing FIRE is another critical part of training, not training in just attack and stressed how repetition is also needed. Commissioner Starkweather stressed the importance of how a training officer should be working hand-in-hand with the other officers. He purposed how making a few positive changes might help the program work more cohesively. He asked the officers present for their input as to how the department can make the training program better and stated any ideas would be discussed at the next Commissioner Meeting in September.

Some comments were made by the officers. Captain Adam Rasmussen commented how things have been working smoother lately, as they all have “competence”, and each officer has their own strength and technique when training. Commissioner Starkweather reiterated the goal is to manage the current system with less stress, he thanked the officers and asked them to discuss further among themselves ideas for improvement.

- **Facilities:**

Chief Baker explained the *Model* and emphasized our future goals regarding a new Training Facility with resident quarters and two more truck bays for Station 52. The Chief discussed projected cost for each. He stated there are a few options for funding. Levy renewal in 2024 would help and the possibility of a Non-Voted Bond, secured State loan with low interest. The department tried applying for the FEMA BRIC Grant last year but was unsuccessful. Assistant Chief McClellan discussed the possibility of putting in a “Burn Box” to help with live fire training. He mentioned how the department appreciate those opportunities when the community donates structures for (live-fire training) but we cannot always count on when that happens.

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- **Financial Status:**

The Chief reviewed the budget and showed the Board the estimated expenses/revenue for the balance of this year. He indicated looking at the 2021 actual spending will help to build a 2022 estimate. Our current budget shows the department being over by around \$27,000.00. Chief Baker asked the Board what projects they might want to do this next year.

Leading back to Training, Captain Nick Glenn asked if the department had a policy and procedure manual. Commissioner Starkweather noted the department is updating the administrative policies. Nick indicated, he would like to have a standard “operations” policy handbook, showing fire response guidelines. Important for new firefighters joining the department. He suggested creating a simple program that could possibly be accessed online. Short discussion was continued at looking into creating an online policy option.

Adjournment: Commissioner Starkweather closed meeting with no additional business before the Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Chelan County Fire District 5 Board of Commissioners:

Commissioner Chairman Dana Starkweather

Commissioner Fred Weiss

Commissioner Dan Baker

Attest: Regenia Trusel
District Secretary