

**Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council
Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID
November 8th, 2023, at 10:00 AM.**

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of the November 2023 Claims*.

MOTION:

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the November 2023 claims; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

Chairman Gray announces that Commissioner Michael is absent today, but we do still have a quorum.

4. Approval of the October 18th 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes*.

MOTION:

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the October 18, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

5. Report: Monthly Update – North Blaine County Fire District Chief, Rich Bauer.

Chief Bauer would like to start by giving kudos to Chief Robrahn and the teams on responding to a kitchen fire in the Meadows RV Park on October 23rd. There was a quick response, including a response from Greenhorn, and they knocked it down very quickly.

Niels McMahon has moved into the one of the existing 1 bedroom units at Greenhorn. He is a full time member of the Ketchum Fire Department, and we are super excited to have him on the team. He has been putting on a once a month Saturday training with Ricky Williams called Drill & Grill, when SVFD and KFD train together in the morning and grill together in the afternoon.

Chief Bauer got an email from the IRSB, Idaho Ratings and Service Bureau, saying that the District is due for an audit next year to update our insurance ratings. It is going to be postponed until 2025, doing the audit at the same time as they do Sun Valley's, since we are a shared team. We have a year to prepare and doublecheck that everything is in good working order.

Chief Bauer comments that he mentioned earlier this year that he was going to start having 6-month reviews with current live-in residents, going over call response and drill attendance and other requirements they agreed to when signing their housing agreements. The first set of reviews is this month.

As a side note, the annual KSVVA firefighters ball is on November 18th at the Limelight Hotel.

Brady Workman has said that he can do our annual audit presentation in December this year rather than January, if the Commissioners would like to do it earlier this year. Chairman Gray and Commissioner Engelmann would both like to have Brady present the audit in December.

The Commissioners would like to continue with our District meeting schedule on the second Wednesdays of each month in 2024. We will do a Resolution in next month's meeting.

6. Report: Monthly Update – Sun Valley Fire Chief, Taan Robrahn.

Chief Robrahn did a quick recap of the fire last month that Chief Bauer spoke about. He wants to thank the crew on such a great stop. It appears to have been a cooking fire, with hot water from a tea kettle spilling onto a pot of hot oil, causing a flash and starting the fire. There were no injuries from the fire.

Captain Slater Storey is now in Florida to look at our newest SVFD fire engine before we take delivery of it. This engine has been in the work for about 2.5 years. It is 4-wheel drive and has higher clearance than our other engines. Answering a question from Chairman Gray, Chief Robrahn says that from a crew safety standpoint, we would not send it up Baldy for calls. We have other apparatus to use for that.

We recently did a first round of a new promotional process in the FD. We added a Captain ranking in the employee structure of the department. We now have three great new Captains, Ricky Williams, Hunter Storey, and Slater Storey. They have all exhibited an upper level of leadership, and we are excited as it is the next phase of growth for our department. Chairman Gray asked Chief Robrahn to extend the Commissioners' congratulations and thanks to the staff. Chief Robrahn said that we now have 2 open Lieutenant positions, and those promotions will happen in January.

7. Discussion and possible approval to donate Engine 20 to the Smiley Creek Rural Fire Protection District*.

Commissioner Engelmann thinks this is a great idea. Chairman Gray agrees and thinks it is great that we are able to do this; we did discuss it at last month's meeting as well.

MOTION:

Commissioner Engelmann moves to donate Engine 20 to the Smiley Creek Rural Fire Protection District; seconded by Chairman Gray.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

8. Updates, discussion, and possible action regarding Greenhorn Housing Project*.

Chief Robrahn presented an update on the project. Jonathan Lunceford and his team are working hard to wrap up projects while the weather stays good. They have started working on the road base. Garage doors have been ordered, and a company has been contracted to do the electrical hookups. Delivery of the next four units is now looking like January, as trying to coordinate cranes and such right before Christmas would logistically be very difficult.

The Chiefs and Jim have been working with Jim and Ashley Board on the landscaping plans on the project. We received a waiver from Blaine County for our fee of 150% of landscaping costs. They gave us 3-5 years to complete the landscaping.

Jim Keating, City Administrator for the City of Sun Valley, says that we have got some preliminary plans for landscaping. He should have a copy of the plans to show the Commissioners soon. The current estimate is for \$160K, up from our initial \$40K that was budgeted. We should probably go out to bid for landscaping companies sooner rather than later once a plan is decided upon. Costs would probably come out of the LGIP account. It may be a good idea to consider reinvesting in the account.

Jim says that come spring, asphalt and gutter work will need to be done. We can get dirt on the rocks pretty quickly when it is time for that. He will be doing a budget assessment soon to look at the expenses versus revenues on the project so far.

We got the second round of fundraising letters mailed out last week; many thanks to everyone who helped get that done in a quick turnaround before the Commissioners left town.

9. Discussion: Old Business.

Commissioner Engelmann asked if there is any news on consolidation. Jim said that there has not been significant discussion on consolidation since our last District meeting. There are a couple meetings happening next Monday though. There will be a technical meeting with the Chiefs, and a meeting with administrators. Then Jim and Jed will have a one on one meeting with one of the consultants.

As Jim understands it, the first two meetings will be reviewing the next rounds of data that the consultants have collected. Jim has asked if they can sort the call related data by seasons, not just by year, such as winter versus warmer months. He also thinks we need to think about where we will continue to build in this valley and have people live in the future. They are also separating the data between EMS versus fire calls.

Commissioner Engelmann asked if there is possibility of the Ambulance District reassessing their current contracts, given the 3-5 year time frame we have been given for this consolidation. Jim comments that the City of Sun Valley only just received our latest contract for FY 2024 with the Ambulance District yesterday, and it is the exact same amount of money as last year. Chairman Gray says that the reason him and Jim will be meeting with the consultants privately on Monday is because he wants to discuss that the Ambulance District started all of this because they say that their current model is unsustainable. In these talks we seem to have moved away from that important part of the conversation. Jim adds that while so far a lot of the data analysis has focused on calls, it should shift soon to looking at the financials.

Chief Robrahn confirmed that the Terry O'Connor, Medical Director for the Ambulance District, has resigned, though he is still in place on an interim basis. They have four applicants for the position, and we are hopeful that whoever is selected will be engaged with all contract holders.

Commissioner Engelmann says that if you look at what the NBCFD and City of Sun Valley have going, we are not fully consolidated, but we do have a relationship that is working very well. He thinks that looking at a full scale consolidation of countywide fire and EMS is something he does not expect to see happen in his lifetime, and is incredibly complicated. A model similar to what the District and City are doing could be a great example of how to share assets and resources without a full-scale merger.

Jim thinks that the Consolidation talks in the past are very binary; either full consolidation or nothing. There are conversations now that are presenting other more partial options, which in itself is progress. Chief Robrahn adds that individuals get caught up in the term consolidation, but there are many other ways to work together, like Commissioner Engelmann and Jim mentioned. He thinks that we should be training together and have auto aid agreements.

Chairman Gray says he agrees with Commissioner Engelmann's comments. The District and the City are both independent entities but are partnered together very well. Chief Bauer adds that he has been in the fire service in this valley for 30 years, and he thinks that there are reasons full consolidation has not happened yet when it has been discussed before. He also agrees that there are other ways to start working together, such as hiring a countywide training officer, so all entities are training using the same methods.

Chairman Gray wants to bring up EMS when him and Jim meet with the consultants next week. We have a great fire response crew, with great new engines and equipment. In his opinion, what our constituents are lacking is a good EMS response.

Commissioner Engelmann thinks it is great that a KFD member is moving into the housing and joining the NBCFD/SVFD team, and is an excellent step in the right direction. Chief Bauer says that we have fostered a great sense of cooperation in the District since partnering with the City, and we welcome members of all Valley fire departments to live there.

10. Public Comment.

None.

11. Adjournment*.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Chairman Gray.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann.

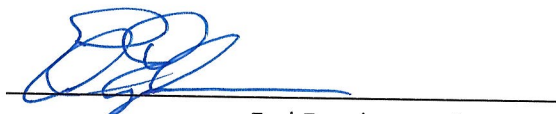
NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

Chairman Gray declared the meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.



Jed Gray, Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Secretary