

**Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council
Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID
February 14th, 2024, at 10:00 AM.**

[1. Call to Order.](#)

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

[2. Public Comment.](#)

None.

[3. Approval of the February 2024 Claims*](#)

Commissioner Michael asked about a \$180 expense at Chateau Drug for shower curtains, rods, and rings for two new Greenhorn units, and Jocelin explained that four of each were purchased for four bathrooms total, for the first two units that were ready. The rest of those supplies will likely be purchased online at a lower cost for the remaining 6 units. Commissioner Michael also asked about the way we pay our contract with the City of Sun Valley, and noticed that we paid out the full 50% of overtime budget, as well as 50% overall of the allocated budget for salaries and benefits.

Commissioner Michael asked, if not all of the money is used, does it get banked for next year? Is this a fixed expenditure? Jocelin answered that each year we allocate the total funds in our District budget, and then we pay out a fixed 50% of allocation twice a year to the City, according to our contract. Chairman Gray asks Chief Robrahn historically how much of the overtime budget we use. Chief Robrahn answers that the City of Sun Valley does have it's own overtime budget, and the District funds contributes mostly to the employee's overtime that the District pays for. It is not necessarily tracked to the overtime hours it pays for.

Commissioner Michael also mentions an Amazon charge on our Zions bank statement she does not see as a claim that she would like to review with Jocelin.

MOTION:

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the February 2024 claims; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

[4. Approval of the January 10th 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes*](#)

Chairman Gray would like to thank Mayor Hendricks for swearing him in last month, and for his kind and generous comments.

MOTION:

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the January 10th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

[5. Discussion and possible approval of a Separate Fire Service Automatic Aid Agreement between the City of Sun Valley, North Blaine County Fire Protection District and the City of Hailey*.](#)

Chief Bauer explains that we have not in the past had an automatic aid agreement with the City of Hailey, and this would implement one. Previously we have had a mutual aid agreement with them. With this agreement, it means that there is an automatic page out of all three entities upon confirmation of a structure fire within any of their district boundaries.

MOTION:

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the Auto Aid Agreement with the City of Hailey; seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

[6. Report: Monthly Update – North Blaine County Fire District Chief, Rich Bauer.](#)

Chief Bauer says that he applied for another Grant with the Wood River Women's Foundation this year, to help offset some of the costs for our landscaping at Greenhorn. He received an email from them this morning saying that they would like to do a site visit, which he thinks is a positive step.

Zackary Traylor of Wood River Fire and Rescue has moved into the first new unit at Greenhorn with his wife and daughter. We are very excited to have them be there, and for him to be joining us as an on-call firefighter at the Station. Mike Curry, a long time on-call member with the department, is in process of moving in. We have other people interested in the units as well, so we hope to have the first four units filled soon.

The next Chief and Steering Committee meetings regarding countywide Fire and EMS consolidation are next week on February 21st. Chairman Gray will participate remotely.

Chief Bauer says that we have had a lot of great press lately after Commissioner Michael's press release. Him and Chairman Gray were interviewed for local news station KMVT, and that story was picked up by the MSN website. Eye on Sun Valley also posted an article. Chairman Gray says that he is happy with the good PR coming from the story, and the article posted on MSN had a link to our campaign donation page with Spur.

Commissioner Michael asked Chief Bauer if he has had time to look into a money market fund for the District, so that we have less in the checking account and can grow more interest. He says that he discussed it with Jocelin, and with the Commissioners' approval, they would like to transfer the money into one of our high interest LGIP accounts, rather than opening another account that we would have to keep track of. Commissioner Michael asked if we can move the money quickly to and from this account, and Chief Bauer answered yes. The Commissioners think this is a good idea. They will wait until next meeting to make a motion for this on an actionable item.

[7. Report: Monthly Update – Sun Valley Fire Chief, Taan Robrahn.](#)

Chief Robrahn would like to announce that full time firefighter Katelyn Berman has officially become a paramedic. We hired her as a full time staff member about 2 years ago, and this is really a huge achievement for both her and the department. She is going to make a fantastic paramedic, and we know that she has put a great deal of work into achieving this. Sarah Driggs, also a full time firefighter, is also in paramedic school right now. We set this up this process so that we have staggered students in paramedic school. Julie Youngblood is the next firefighter we expect to go through the program, and is currently working on her prerequisites.

Commissioner Michael would like to work with Chief Robrahn to draft a press release about this milestone. This is a really big deal and shows our commitment not only to providing greater medical services in our communities, but also our good use of Ambulance District funds. The Commissioners and Chief agreed with this.

Chief Robrahn says that at the next City Council meeting there will also be a ceremony recognizing our newly promoted Captains in the Department, and Katelyn's accomplishment in completing her paramedic certification.

Chief Robrahn's final announcement is that the City took delivery of our newest fire engine, Engine 64, just yesterday. It will be a great new tool to have in our community, and was designed to be a wildland/urban interface vehicle capable of working on wildland and structure fires. We are excited to get it into service in the next couple of weeks.

[8. Updates, discussion, and possible action regarding Greenhorn Housing Project*](#)

Chief Robrahn announces that we took delivery of our final four Greenhorn units on January 30th. Delivery went very smoothly and the weather was great, and the lack of snow actually worked in our favor. We posted videos on Instagram on the SVFD page, and also a joint post with ZipKit that got a lot of attention.

Jim Keating, City Administrator for the City of Sun Valley, says that this is a really big milestone to be excited about. The Commissioners noticed that there are still workers from ZipKit on site; Jim says that this is because the units were delivered on time, but still needed finishing on the interior. They should be completely done in the next few days. We are hoping to move quickly on getting inspections and certificates of occupancy on these next four units.

Next steps are getting the paving, curb, and gutter work completed. Jim is hoping to get final updated estimates soon from Merrick and Lunceford for finishing this work, which they are contracted to do. We then would plan to start the work in early summer.

Once we get to the point that we have a finalized landscaping plan, we need to have water rights to use extra water beyond our current residential water permit. We are working closely with IDWR for a permit for a water bank to use that extra water. Pat McMahan from Sun Valley Water and Sewer has been very helpful in suggesting that SVW&S has water rights they can contribute to the project, so we are applying for those as well. Chairman Gray mentions we can apply for revegetation water rights, and asks if that is what we are applying for. Jim answers that we are applying for the

revegetation status, but it needs to be connected to the extra water rights somehow.

In working on our current landscape plan, we have submitted a permit with ITD for an encroachment permit for the berm we want to create. We want this for noise abatement and a barrier from the highway. ITD says they want to use about 12 feet of what we wanted to use for our berm to widen the highway in the next few years. Based on this Ashley Board and Mat Smithman have worked very hard to create a new berm design that fits with ITDs plans, and we will soon be submitting the updated permit request based on this new design. Jim also notes that ITD is very supportive of this project and does want to continue working with us on this.

Chairman Gray commented that once the landscaping is in, it is really going to pull this whole project together and make it what we need to make it a great community for the residents that live there.

Commissioner Michael says that the County has their own berm permitting requirements, and asks if our landscape plans take that into consideration? Jim answers that they were very conscious of the scenic overlay district Sarah is referring to, but right County officials are saying that based on where the property is and how it is being developed, we do not need to worry about that right now.

Commissioner Engelmann says that at the end of all of this we need to make sure to recognize ITD for its instrumental role in making this project possible. Chairman Gray agrees, and says that him and Chief Bauer did mention them in their interview with KMVT. Everyone agrees that we need to continue to recognize their importance in this project.

Chairman Gray says that once the landscaping is completed, we should invite all of the contributors of this project back to site to see what they helped us accomplish.

[9. Discussion: Old Business.](#)

Chairman Gray would like to look back at the claims and snow removal costs last month. He asked about our thought last year of getting a truck and plow, and if we would want to do that and lower snow removal costs. Chief Bauer answered that we were thinking of a new support truck fitted with a plow that could also be used to help move snow. If we did that, it would not replace All Seasons as our primary snow removal tool. We had thought about purchasing the support vehicle, and instead set money aside for paving instead. Chairman Gray thinks it is something to keep in mind for creating next year's budgets. Commissioner Micheal comments that she does think it is a good thing to keep in mind, but given the rapid depreciation of vehicles, is not something she thinks we should budget for next year.

Commissioner Michael brings up that we need to continue discussing the overall financing of the Greenhorn project. Jim responds that the biggest moving piece regarding funding right now has to do with completing the landscaping plan. Once that plan is complete, we can better predict our final cost estimate. Jim also says that he has asked the City's attorney about creating an agreement between the City and the District codifying that we own these units together, and how that works. He will bring the draft agreement back to the Commissioners as soon as he receives it.

The Commissioner discuss moving our March meeting and agree on 3/20/24.

Jocelin references a couple points made earlier in the meeting. Referring to the Amazon purchase Commissioner Michael mentioned earlier on the Zions Bank Statement, it was approved with the January claims last month appearing on the bank statement for January we received in early February.

Jocelin thinks that we can move money from our Zions account to our LGIP account without a motion. The action would be moving money, not spending it. Due to previous authority the Commissioners have given Jocelin in regards to the bank accounts, she believes she has the ability to move this money without a motion. The Commissioner are in favor and ask Jocelin to do this, keeping enough money in the checking account to pay our monthly bills.

10. Public Comment.

None.

11. Adjournment*.

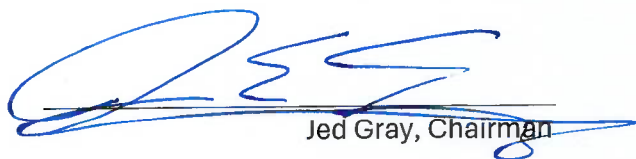
MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.



Jed Gray, Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Secretary