

**Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council
Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID
April 14th, 2025, at 9:00 AM.**

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Gray called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of the April 2025 Claims*.

Commissioner Michael states that the District's auditor has suggested it would be a good idea to have an independent party going over the claims and checks each month. She has now done this twice with Jocelin, and the claims are being paid as presented.

MOTION:

Commissioner Sarah Michael moved to approve the April 14th, 2025 Regular Meeting Claims; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

4. Approval of the March 13th, Regular Meeting Minutes*.

Commissioner Michael double checked that in his public comment last time, Chief Bateman commented that him and Chairman Gray ran into each other in October 2023; is this the correct date? Chairman Gray confirms it is correct.

MOTION:

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the March 13th, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Engelmann

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

Chief Bauer says that at previous meetings Chief Robrahn has mentioned the new radios the City purchased with the radio grant the City received. He wants to thank Chiefs Robrahn and Williams for getting this grant. Because of this we now have 16 of these radios, which cost about \$7,000 each, on District apparatus.

Chairman Gray asked if his understanding is correct that Ketchum does not have the same radios as us and they do not communicate with ours? Chief Bauer says their radios are different but can communicate with ours. Their radios are programmed differently than ours.

Chief Bauer says that we will discuss the budget later, but the big capital expense he'd like the Commissioners to consider for budget season this year is a new command vehicle for the District, outfitted with a snowplow. When not being used as a command vehicle, the snow plow can be utilized for snow removal at Greenhorn. Chief Bauer says that with the government discounts we would receive, he estimates it would be around \$70,000 for a 3/4 ton pickup with a plow. He will fine tune the number for the Commissioners. Chairman Gray states he would like to have a logo or the District's name on the vehicle.

Chief Bauer says that Flying Squirrel Property Management is doing a great job. They are going above and beyond and are very responsive when we call them.

We have one live-in at Greenhorn that has gotten into nursing school in Twin Falls and is going to be moving out. We are accepting applications for his unit, which is one of the Zip Kits.

All of the fluorescent lights in the Greenhorn Fire Bays have been updated to more efficient LED lights.

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

Chief Robrahn says that Blaine County Fire Academy finished their structure fire training this past weekend. They still have Hazmat and Wildland Fire training to go before finishing academy. We have three new recruits that will be joining us after completing the academy, and these members will be a great new addition to the team. Many thanks to Chief Williams for overseeing the City's part in the Academy. Our three recruits are Jack Bruner, Taylor Prince, and Banks Gilberti. They have been at the top of the class throughout academy, and we are very excited to see their growth so far. We will schedule a badge pinning or academy celebration once it is finished, and Chief Robrahn will share that date with the Commissioners once we have it. Chief Robrahn says that at the end of academy, they have the most basic of training under their belts. Sarah Driggs is a great example of how much these recruits grow into great firefighters. Commissioner Michael asked how many total cadets were there this year, and will they now be encouraged to become EMTS, and Chief Robrahn answers that there were 17 total cadets in academy this year. Two of our three cadets are already EMTS, and we encourage the others to become EMTS on a developed

timeline.

Chief Robrahn says they are defining data collection points for the GIS mapping projects the District Commissioners approved last month. They are looking at where they can focus and get the most bang for the buck on results. They have identified wood shingled roofs and proximity to power lines and vegetation as major risk factors to look at and map. When we have these maps, we will have a more educated view when preventing and reacting to emergencies.

Chairman Gray says that he was speaking to a board member of the Gimlet HOA, and they would love to have either Chief Bauer or Robrahn attend the annual Gimlet HOA meeting the first week of July and speak about these topics. Chairman Gray says he assumes the other HOAs in the District would also benefit from this. He is replacing his own wood shingled roof with an asphalt one right now, and knows many people losing home owners insurance due to their wood roofs. Chief Robrahn says absolutely, please keep us informed on that date. Chief Black, fire prevention specialist for the City, is meeting with Elkhorn Association members twice this week. Members of the public are interested in this right now, and we want to take advantage of that in this moment.

Chairman Gray says that he won two grants for fuel mitigation by the Sawtooth Valley HOA. They did fuel reductions for two summers, and when they had that fire out at Redfish last year that got very close to the cabins, they lost no structures.

Chief Robrahn says that is a great example of the importance of fuel mitigation. At the station our staff is currently preparing for wildland fire season. We make sure the apparatus is ready, staff are trained, and we have all the necessary gear.

Chief Robrahn says that the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association will be having their annual meeting here in Sun Valley May 15th-18th. More than 130 Chiefs from across the state have signed up to attend, and it is a great opportunity for important conversations and collaborations.

Commissioner Michael says that last year we discussed no longer giving out burn permits in the District but decided against making that change. Campfires are also allowed on public land such as Forest Service and BLM. Since so much of Idaho is public lands, is there any integration of fire regulation with the federal land management agencies and municipal fire chiefs? Chief Robrahn says that the federal departments have their own policies that they follow, with minimal influence from Idaho fire chiefs. Chief Bauer says

that a primary reason the District is not banning fire permits is that Sun Valley Company has land within the District and does burns each fall. We only issue a few other permits each year and Chief Bauer approves each of those permits after visiting the burn site. We do not issue permits once wildfire danger increases.

Chief Robrahn spoke with Harry Griffith this past weekend, and he is going to hold a panel discussion regarding wildfires and the effects on insurance and businesses. Chief Robrahn also recently spoke with the Chief of Teton County, who is in charge of the Wildland Fire Division for Idaho fire chiefs. He is well known nationally and statewide for his knowledge in regards to wildfires, and may come down a couple days prior to the conference to attend the panel discussion.

At their last City Council meeting, the City of Sun Valley approved the Patient Integration Agreement with Ketchum and the Ambulance District. This is the next big step in the City responding as an ALS agency and dictates continuity of care for patients. He will keep the Commissioners updated as we continue to get closer to our ALS license.

Commissioner Michael asked if there is continuing to be demand for response out of Greenhorn Station? Chief Robrahn answered yes we are. The Ketchum Sun Valley Technical Rescue Team responded successfully to an injured skier out Hyndman last weekend. They got out to the patient and were able to assist in getting them onto the air ambulance from St Luke's.

7. Updates, discussion, and possible action regarding Greenhorn Housing*.

Chief Robrahn says that Chief Bauer has been working with Webb Landscaping to ensure we get the irrigation up and running on the new landscaping. Some of the hydroseeding may need to be redone if there are places that do not grow in.

Jocelin has continued to work on the northern Greenhorn 300B unit, which is going to come out really nice. Our finishing pieces will be flooring and bathroom fixture updates. Once complete we will schedule a time for you to come and see the upgrades.

Chairman Gray asked about the new command vehicle that we would be purchasing for Greenhorn. Do we still plan to continue our current plow service and just use the command vehicle for touchup? Chief Bauer says yes, that is what it would be for. It will also be helpful for response during the winter, as we may use the plow to get access to a property. Chairman Gray then asked if we are doing any additional planting at Greenhorn. Chiefs Bauer and Robrahn and Jim Keating were out there last week, and they'd like to see how

everything grows in this year, and then decide if more is needed. They were also looking around to continue identifying ways to improve the Greenhorn Station.

Commissioner Michael says that she sees that we are adding the updates that have been being made to Greenhorn 300B to our Greenhorn Accounting sheet. She'd like to see these expenses recorded separately from the actual housing project. Administrator Keating says that we can absolutely look into that. He says that last time he updated the Commissioners, we had about \$130,000 left in the LGIP account for this project. We have committed approximately \$30,000 of that to updating Greenhorn 300B. We can certainly track these expenses separately. Chairman Gray agrees that it is good to track the expenses separately, because then we can know the final ZipKit cost per unit.

Jim confirms that we have about \$100,000 of uncommitted funds left in the LGIP account. Over the next month, he will work with the Chiefs to prepare recommendations to the commissioners on how to best use that money in the best spirit of the project. He also wants to acknowledge that Chief Bauer and Jocelin did a great job in updating Chief Bauer's office there at Greenhorn.

8. Discussion and possible approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Calendar and Public Hearing Date*.

Commissioner Michael comments that the July meeting is on the third Wednesday of July instead of the second. This is due to the holiday and the Allen and Company Conference. The Commissioners each confirm that they will be able to attend the District's Budget Hearing during the August 13th meeting. A draft budget will be presented next month.

MOTION:

Commissioner Sarah Michael moved to adopt the FY 2026 General Budget Timeline for review and adoption of the FY 2026 Budget, with Budget Hearing on August 13, 2025; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

9. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2025-01 Authorizing the Disposal of Equipment*.

Chief Robrahn says they are doing some spring cleaning through the stations, and found some old furniture and out of service radios and microphones they would like to dispose of. We are required to get Commissioner approval for this disposal. Functional equipment like the radios can be donated to a program called the Care Convoy, that donates equipment throughout fire departments in Mexico.

MOTION:

Commissioner Sarah Michael moved to approve North Blaine County Fire District Resolution 2025-01 related to the disposal of equipment per Idaho code 31-1420; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

10. Discussion: New Business.

Commissioner Michael would like to see a map of the portion of the Fire District north of the Griffin Butte Station. The federal government is disposing of federal lands. She would like to see the surrounding areas and what land is owned by BLM and Forest Service and what is leased to ITD. We could then work with the those landholders. Chief Robrahn said we can get that map from GIS.

11. Discussion: Old Business.

None.

12. Public Comment.

None.

13. Adjournment*.

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.



Jed Gray, Chairman

Sarah Michael, Treasurer