

**Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council
Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID
March 20th, 2024, 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 March 2024 Claims*.

Chairman Gray asked who Ken Fahrenwald is, as he is listed as a vendor in our claims this month. Jocelin answers that he is a handyman they hired, and he repainted the bathroom in Greenhorn Unit 300B.

MOTION:

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the March 2024 claims; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

4. Approval of the February 14th 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes*.

MOTION:

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the February 14th, 2024 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.

As you know, we applied for another grant with the Wood River Women's Foundation for the landscaping of the Greenhorn Housing Project. We are finalists for the Grant and have a presentation with them at 2 pm today. We are hopeful about getting another grant from them, and excited to partner with them again if we do receive the grant.

Chief Bauer says that we will be going digital with plan checks for the Fire District. Chief Bauer reviews all plans for the District, and right now architects bring in physical copies of plans. If all goes to plan, plans will be submitted online via a software called Blue Beam. The District will pay an annual subscription fee of about \$300 a year for the software. The fees collected by the County and District will not change, but hopefully this helps the process to become more efficient.

An update on residents in the new housing. Zack Traylor and Mike Curry have both moved in, and we are waiting on background checks for three more applicants who would like to move in. Chairman Gray suggests that when all of the units are filled we should have a press release, and Commissioner Engelmann agrees. In the release we can let people know that there was and is a need for this housing, and we are filling this need.

Chief Bauer's last announcement is that we have moved money from the Zions checking account to our LGIP account, which has a much higher interest rate, as requested from the Commissioners.

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

The Sun Valley Fire Department has applied for a fuel mitigation grant with the Idaho Department of Lands. We are hoping to use the grant within the City, and use it as a starting point for also expanding its fuel mitigation efforts into the NBCFD. The grant would be used to cut and clear vegetation in areas within the city, to lower the amount of fuel for wildfire, and create fuel 'breaks' so a fire does not have the fuel to keep moving. We would want to turn this into an annual project. Another part of the project would be homeowner education, encouraging homeowners to clean up their properties, and we would pick up and chip the yard waste. The City has been working towards these projects over the past several years. It is an opportune time to do this, especially as everyone is experiencing rate increases or cancellation of home insurance due to our wildfire risk here, and homeowners are becoming more aware of the risk associated with wildfires.

We are in the phase of finishing up with winter, and preparing for spring and summer, and we have a lot of members doing training right now. Chief Bauer adds that we have now done a couple of trainings at Greenhorn station. We have the one open 100 unit at Greenhorn, and they like to use it for mockup scenarios. Captain Ricky Williams has led those trainings.

Commissioner Engelmann asked how frequently the Lewis St training center in Ketchum gets used, and how much are we training with Ketchum? Chief Robrahn says that Sun Valley and Ketchum each usually use it at least once a month. Right now it is used more often for fire academy, and the duty staff shifts use it for day training sometimes.

Chairman Gray asked for the latest update on consolidation talks, and Chief Robrahn answered that there are no upcoming meetings scheduled at this time. We have given the consultants all requested information and documentation though. Chairman Gray's understanding was that there might be a meeting scheduled in May for elected officials, but nothing has been announced.

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

Chief Robrahn reiterates that we have a few applicants in line to move into the housing. Dave from ZipKit is there today with plumbers and electricians, and we have to build some stairs that step up to the front porches. We have to do radon mitigation in the second set of four units and have a couple of things to get to in the garages. Chief Bauer will do his fire inspections, and then we can get our Certificates of Occupancy from the County. Chairman Gray asked when we expect those next four to be ready? Chief Robrahn says that if everything goes to plan, we are hoping to be ready for occupancy by mid-April.

Skip Merrick should be doing some concrete, curb and gutter work mid to late April, and Lunceford should be doing pavement mid-May. We are nearing completion of our landscape design, just making some minor tweaks to tree locations at this point. Chairman Gray comments that it sounds like by the end of May, we may see all work besides landscaping finished. Chief Robrahn answers that the major stuff is done now, so hopefully the rest goes relatively quickly. Building the berm on the side of the property is likely the piece that will take the longest at this point.

Commissioner Engelmann asks Chief Bauer if we have been seeing a lot of plan checks? Chief Bauer answers that we are slow right now, but it is a slow time of year in general for plans.

Jim Keating with the City of Valley says that we are working on an encroachment permit with ITD at Greenhorn. A lot of our forward progress is hinging on that encroachment, regarding where we place the berm. Chairman Gray asked where we expect to get the dirt for our berm? Jim answered that we are expecting a lot of the dirt to come through Lunceford from other projects he will be working on.

Chairman Gray asked Jim about EMS consolidation updates. Jim says that the next steering meeting has not been set yet, but he expects that when it gets set it will be around May 18th or 19th. The consultants are currently working on data analysis that was not included in their stage phase one report, such as where calls are coming from and ideal station locations based on current stations locations and that call location data. This timing coincides with when the County is requesting preliminary EMS funding proposals for the City and Fire District for fiscal year 2025 by the third week of May.

8. Discussion: Old Business.

Commissioner Sarah Michael had requested in an email before the meeting that we discuss if Fire Commissioners are permitted to also be on-call firefighters, a topic the Commissioners have discussed before. Chief Bauer says that he read through the City of Sun Valley employee manual, and his interpretation is that in that situation an on-call FF could run for the position, but if elected would have to resign as an on-call firefighter. If not, City Council would have to specifically approve of the person continuing to be an on-call FF. Chairman Gray says that he could see that as a conflict of interest, and he would not favor that sort of situation developing within the District. Commissioner Engelmann agrees, having someone in that position would muddy the water as somebody who both oversees and reports to the Fire Chiefs. Chairman Gray does not think it would be allowable to have an active on-call FF become a Commissioner. He says he would consider making it District policy at another meeting when all three Commissioners are present. Chief Bauer will try to find the meeting minutes when this topic has been discussed before.

9. Public Comment.

None.

10. Adjournment*.

MOTION

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

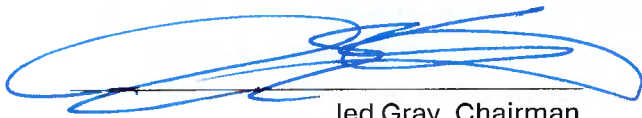
A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann

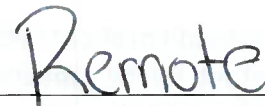
NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

Chairman Gray declared the meeting adjourned at 09:29 a.m.



Jed Gray, Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Secretary