

**Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District  
in the Council Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID  
September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00 AM.**

Chairman Gray – Present in person.  
Commissioner Michael – Absent.  
Commissioner Engelmann – Present in person.

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of the September 2022 Claims\*.

Chairman Gray asked if the Personal Protection Equipment we ordered from SeaWest Fire Fighting Equipment is turnouts, and Chief Bauer answered yes. We try to buy two sets a year so we do not have to do a large purchase at once. We've also ordered new fire hose for new Engine 3. Both will take some time to get delivered.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the September 14, 2022, claims; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

4. Approval of the August 10, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes\*.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

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

Wow, it's good to see everybody here today. It's been a very busy past couple of weeks for us. There were three structure fires in addition to the blow-up of the Ross Fork Fire since Labor Day weekend. He would like to thank all of the crews for their hard work on all of these incidents. We had staff the entire night at the fire at Limelight Condos over Labor Day weekend. We had staff and SVFD engines up at the

Ross Fork Fire, and Captain Reid Black is the last staff member from SVFD working it. That fire had unprecedented conditions weather conditions and growth, and we are happy to report that it has seen some precipitation and is now under better control. Initially SVFD went up due to a mutual aid request for help with Smiley Creek Fire Protection District, and then were requested through the forest service team.

New Engine 3 is being dedicated this afternoon, and is having no major issues thus far and is working well responding to calls. Chief Robrahn explained that it was a very important asset to have present at the Limelight Condos fire. It was able to be used for an extra water supply because it holds so much water and the hydrants were being overtasked. We decided to get a pumper/tanker because of how much water it can hold, and it has already been put to good use for that purpose. Chief Bauer mentioned that it's a great piece of apparatus and thanked the Commissioners for the support in purchasing it.

Chiefs Bauer and Robrahn have been in conversations with Chiefs Bateman and Sears with Wood River Fire and Rescue to talk about how the departments may be able to work together to better serve our constituents with both fire and EMS services. The values and goals of SVFD, NBCFD, and WRFR align well, which Chief Bauer believes is the first steps to a successful working partnership. Commissioner Engelmann commented that he has spoken with a WRFR Commissioner, and they are very short on personnel, and think we can benefit from doing personnel sharing. Chief Bauer responded that that is a key problem that has been identified. Even the ambulance district survey identified that the current response model is not sustainable.

We are closing out the Fiscal Year 2022 and we are underbudget again this year. It displays the District's dedication to operating in a fiscally responsible manner.

Greenhorn Open House is this afternoon from 4-7 pm. We have scaled it down a bit due to extraneous circumstances, but are excited to dedicate Engine 3, give station tours, and answer questions about the Greenhorn Housing Project. Chairman Gray said that he has organized for members of the Sun Valley Board of Realtors to go to the Open House to do an official handoff an oversized check to the District for the Greenhorn Housing Project, representing the \$10,000 donation they have already given the District through Spur.

In regards to our fiscal year budget 2022, we have previously discussed reimbursing expenses from line item 10-425-631 for the Greenhorn Housing Project from the lease money we have received for the project with 5B First Responder Housing LLC. Chief would like to suggest that we do not take the reimbursement. By not taking this money from the lease, it keeps it available to use on the project. Jocelin explained that while we have used the entirety of this line item's budget this year, we are still approximately \$75,000 underbudget overall for the year. It is decided to discuss this with the Greenhorn Housing Project agenda item.

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

Chief Robrahn wants to reiterate what Chief Bauer said in appreciating all of our staff. These past few weeks have been some of the busiest he has seen for the department, with many staff and volunteers working very long hours. Approximately 10% of our call volume for the year has happened in the last two weeks, and these were not minor calls.



Chairman Gray asked if Chief Robrahn felt like the department was stretched too thin during these multi-call incidents. Chief Robrahn answered that we needed all of the staff that we had available. He spoke with the Mayor about SVFD sending staff and apparatus to the Ross Fork Fire once it started expanding quickly, and the mayor immediately supported sending the aid.

We had quite a long Blaine County P&Z meeting on 9/8/22 that went until about 10:30 p.m. Our project topic was almost not discussed due to the topic before ours taking longer than planned. We need to make a couple of adjustments to the site layout, but are approved on all three of our applications. Chief Robrahn really appreciates all of the time Mike Matthias and Jim Zarubica have put into this project, especially in the last several weeks.

As you know, Conrad Bros gave us a high estimate to manage the Greenhorn project. We are now working with Jacobs Engineering, who has worked with the City on several projects. They have provided us with a contract to coordinate all pre-bid scope work. They will get one big package together that includes, water, sewer, power, foundations, etc. The bid opening started today and will go through Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. We are working on a tight time frame so everyone should reach out to their contacts and encourage any interested contractors to reach out.

#### 7. Update, discussion, and possible action regarding Greenhorn Housing Project\*.

Project Architect Mike Matthias presented an update from P&Z meeting. He explained that it was requested that Unit One, which is in the southwest corner of the project, has been requested to be moved to the north end to be further away from the highway. Now the garages will also need to be moved, and the new unit will be parallel with the bike path. Mike and Jim hope to have new drawings completed today. Chairman Gray would like to make it known that this change was not made for public safety reasons, it was for personal reasons of one of the commissioners.

Mike spoke with Frankie Martinez of FMTZ Construction this morning, a concrete contractor who is showing interest in the project. Burkes and Apollo are two other companies that have also shown interest. ZipKit has shown strong interest in doing our second set of four units as well. It may make sense to have all excavation and foundations ready.

Chief Robrahn added that now that the project has been advertised, the next several weeks are critical in keeping this process moving forward. We will keep everyone updated on if we need to have any Special Meetings to award the bid. If everything goes according to plan, we should have units ready and placed by the first of the new year.

Chairman Gray said that ordering the second set of four units is all dependent on our fundraising. We have approximately \$130K in the Spur Foundation accounts at this time and he knows of someone that verbally stated they could possibly donate approximately \$100K in November. He would have preferred to have seen more money in the account at this time. We need to be strategizing on how to bring in more money. We have someone here this morning to present a marketing strategy for us.

Mary Austin Croft was contacted by Commissioner Michael, and she has met with Commissioner Michael and Sally, and has laid out a basic plan for public relations and social media. She thinks this is a wonderful and needed project, and it is important to keep our community informed about it. There are several components for a potential PR and social media campaign. We should have some neighborhood gatherings, have current supporters of the project help to spread the word. Most non-profits raise the

majority of their money in the last two months of the year, so we should expect November and December to be big for us. Large posters and fliers were discussed as a way to get the word out about this project. We should continue to post news releases and should have a photographers at today's open house. Chairman Gray asked if Mary could be a photographer and write a press release for the District for today's event, and she said she could. Continuing to present fundraising and HR components, Mary explained that we should be using social media - Facebook, Instagram, etc. Since the City has a larger social media presence and reach than the District, we should be using their larger social media presence. Commissioner Michael, Sally, and Mary talked about a small advertising campaign in the Idaho Mountain Express newspaper in Nov, Dec, Jan, focusing on the staff that are currently using the housing and would not be here without it. This is a large part of the budget for this marketing plan. She has put together an estimate of what this project might cost that has been shared with the Commissioners.

There were no questions for Mary regarding her proposed marketing and PR plans for the project. Chief Robrahn agrees that he thinks that the next few months will be big for our fundraising and community outreach. He believes that the past couple of weeks has really highlighted the need for firefighters and other first responders to be able to live in our community.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the contract Mary Austin Crofts has submitted; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

Mary confirmed that she can be at the open house this afternoon to take photos and write a press release. Chairman Gray said that the members of the Board of Sun Valley Realtors were planning to arrive at 4 pm, and Jocelin mentioned that the dedication of the engine was advertised to be at 5 pm.

Chief Bauer will say a few words at the dedication, thanking the Commissioners for the purchase approval and explaining that the Engine will serve the community well for many years. It will be a great event for our own staff to take pride in their Engine and District. Jocelin sent out an event invite to all City of Sun Valley employees. Chief Bauer mentioned that he will be talking to a KMVT reporter at 1 pm at Greenhorn this afternoon to discuss the project, so there will likely be something in the news tonight or tomorrow.

Commissioner Engelmann suggested that at the dedication ceremony it could be mentioned that the Engine has already been put to get use, providing water at the Limelight fire.

Returning to the discussion of fiscal year budget 2022 regarding reimbursing expenses from line item 10-425-631 for the Greenhorn Housing Project from the lease money we have received for the project with 5B First Responder Housing LLC, Chief Bauer reiterated his suggestion that we do not take the reimbursement. By not taking this money from the lease, it keeps it available to use on the project. We budgeted the \$50K that we have spent this year, and we are still approximately \$75,000 underbudget overall for the year. Chief Robrahn explained that in his estimated project costs he created, the costs did not include the startup fees that the District has primarily been paying for through line 631. If we chose to get reimbursed it would not have been budgeted for in the line item. Commissioner Engelmann had thought that any money that the District spends on the project is set to be matched by the City, and Jocelin explained that the matching funds money is the \$300K budgeted for the project in FY 2023. We are currently discussing the \$50K the District budgeted for in FY 2022. Chairman Gray and Commissioner

Engelmann think that it would be good to leave the money available in the lease for construction costs, and the decision is made to not take a reimbursement of funds.

8. Discussion: Old Business.

None.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

Chairman Gray declared the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



James E. Gray, Commissioner/Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Secretary