

Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID November 10, 2021, 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. Welcome Jocelin Gardner, the new Administrative Assistant.

Chairman Gray welcomed Jocelin, who gave some of her background.

4. Approval of the November 2021 Claims.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the October 13, 2021, claims; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Engelmann.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

5. Approval of the October 13, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the October 13, 2021, regular meeting minutes; seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael

6. Discussion and possible approval of the 2022 meeting schedule.

Discussion about continuing to have the monthly North Blaine County Fire District Commissioners Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 am. Works well and seems to have few time conflicts with the City of Sun Valley's use of council chambers. Chairman Gray and Commissioner Engelmann both support continuing the same schedule.

7. Discussion and possible approval regarding bank account changes.

Adding Jocelin to LGIP, Local Government Investment Pool and Zions bank account. Jocelin requires access to the accounts in order to complete the tasks required of the Administrative Assistant position.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to add new Administrative Assistant Jocelin Gardner as an authorized user to the North Blaine County Fire Districts' bank account (number omitted from written public record) located with Zions Bank and grant her online banking access to this same account. Seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann, Chairman Gray

NAYS: None

Absent: Commissioner Michael

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to add our new Administrative Assistant Jocelin Gardner as an authorized user to the North Blaine County Fire Districts' Local Government Investment Pool accounts (account number omitted from public written record). These accounts being the operating account and the replacement account located with the Idaho State Treasurer. Seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann, Chairman Gray

NAYS: None

Absent: Commissioner Michael

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

Welcome Jocelin. Looking forward to the future and having an administrative assistant with a more expanded role as we continue to get busier. We are now financially North Blaine County Fire District, and can change our name on checks and with banks. Thank you to Trish for putting in all the work for this name change. We ordered truck decals that read 'North Blaine County Fire District'. The decals were too small, so larger ones have been ordered, and all truck decals should be changed to the new name by next week. Most of the name change associated costs were covered by the fiscal year 2021 budget.

We have vacancies at two of the rental units at Greenhorn station. One unit is currently being remodeled, and firefighter Ricky Williams will be moving in, likely in January. We are excited to have him move in, as he will provide additional leadership to the tenants there. We reached out to the Ketchum and Wood River Fire Districts to fill the other vacancy in the Greenhorn housing, and heard back from Connor Lohrke, a paid on-call firefighter with Wood River Fire and Rescue that is currently in school for paramedic training. He is losing his current housing and comes with a good recommendation from Chief Bateman with Wood River, and will probably move into a 1-bedroom unit in December. We are happy to have him move in there as we continue to strengthen our relationships with the other fire departments.

Blaine County Ambulance District Strategic Planning process has started, and next week is the community stakeholder meeting. Commissioner Gray, former commissioner Chris Stevens, and Sun Valley/NBCFD on call fire-fighter Mat Hall will be attending that meeting as representatives of NBCFD. Chiefs and administrators will be meeting at a retreat Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the Ambulance District's Strategic Plan. We hope to have questions of who can respond to calls from when

and where answered through this meeting. We are excited for the North Blaine County Fire District and Sun Valley Fire Department to both have seats at the table for this conversation so we can discuss how to provide the citizens of the valley with the best possible emergency response services. Chairman Gray noted that Blaine County Commissioner Jacob Greenburg has announced his retirement, and there is some concern that the County Commissioner involved with the Strategic Planning for the Ambulance District may be vacating his seat to someone unfamiliar with the process and situation. Commissioner Engelmann has spoken Blaine County Commissioner Dick Fosbury about Commissioner Greenburg's retirement and its potential effects on the ambulance district. Commissioner Engelmann asked when we should expect a report to come out about the Ambulance District study. Chief Robrahn thinks it could be a month or two by the time they go over all of the information that has been gathered at the stakeholders and other meetings. Chief Bauer believes that the consultants hired to provide input and advice on the Ambulance District will be driven to provide advice on what is best for Blaine County and its citizens, and not what might be best for the different entities involved in the district. Commissioner Engelmann would like to see more participation from all of stakeholders. The Greenhorn Fire Station allows us to provide services to our North, South, East and West, and would be an ideal place to have an ambulance response come from.

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

Chief Robrahn welcomed Jocelin to the team. Our first snow of the season yesterday caused us to have a busy day with many calls throughout the valley. There was a small structure fire at Sun Valley Resort's indoor ice rink. The fire was quickly extinguished with a fast and well-coordinated response from all crews. The fire stayed confined to one of the locker rooms, and the building was saved from experiencing significant damage. The initial estimate of damage costs is \$10,000.

Ricky Williams, who will be moving into the vacant two bedroom unit at Greenhorn Station, joined the Sun Valley Fire Department about six months ago, and has about eight years of firefighting experience and 10 years of experience as a paramedic.

The Sun Valley City Council has approved the purchase of a new Wildland Apparatus that will replace Engine 66. Getting this apparatus helps us with our goals of having top of the line equipment and tools, increasing levels of safety for our firefighters, as well as the efficiency with which they can do their jobs. It has all of the advantages of a wildland apparatus, but will have a larger pump that can carry more water, as well as 4-wheel drive, and can be used year-round. We are also adding a new vehicle exhaust ventilation system at the Elkhorn Fire Station.

Sun Valley has hired another full-time firefighter, Katelyn Berman, who is currently enrolled to start paramedic school in May 2022. She has been a volunteer firefighter for about five years and brings additional backcountry experience to the team. There are currently three paramedics in the department, and Katelyn will make four. Most of our personnel are EMTs, and our three new recruits are enrolled in the EMT course that the Ketchum Fire District is currently hosting. Last weekend three of our firefighters attended an NFPA "Standard 1403" class to become live fire Instructors. They attended with firefighters from Middleton and Star. Also last weekend, Volunteer Squad Leader Nate Gelpin hosted a motor vehicle extrication class for members of the department that wanted to attend. The City of Sun Valley has paid for all of our EMS personnel training and medical equipment, doing this separately from the ambulance district. Other districts with EMTs get their funding from the ambulance district. Chairman Gray said that if we have the EMS trained staff, it would be great to get funding from

the ambulance district to purchase vehicles so that our staff can respond to those calls. Chief Robrahn stated that we will have a lot more information after the meetings next week.

10. Discussion: Type of new housing at Greenhorn Station.

From Chief Bauer, we got some handouts and diagrams of building options from Galena Engineering, and have met with them, staff from Blaine County, and Matt Wildhagen from the South Central Health District to discuss how to develop the land. Based on preliminary research and septic design on the land parcel by Greenhorn Station, we have maximum build out potential of four duplexes or eight standalone units on the site. We need to decide what type of housing and how much of it we are going to put on the site, as well as how we are going to fund it. We will have to go to the county for a conditional use permit and a variance, and need a phase one plan to move forward with requesting this variance. Chief Robrahn reiterated that we do need to determine how many units we want to aim for, and how we will fund them. We have many design options of what to build, and have talked with a company that builds small standalone units out of Pocatello. Chiefs Bauer, Robrahn, and Commissioner Engelmann may visit this company in December. Each of the units is \$150,000, and is designed to be able to handle our snow loads and climate. That cost does not include site prep, such as foundation and utilities, which we would need to have done separately. They do provide plans, and once prep is done, they place the unit and do finish work. We do not yet have an estimate of what the site prep costs separate from the unit.

Now is the time to discuss what our budget should be, in order to be able to move forward with any type of design and the needed variance application. Commissioner Engelmann stated that this is one of many options, and we need to determine how we are going to pay for what we want to build. One part of how we pay for the units is rent. We need to ensure that we will have tenants in the units, and that there is the need for all of them. Chief Robrahn and Chief Bauer have discussed sending out a survey to all fire and police agencies in the valley to gauge the level of need for housing amongst our first responders, and to have some data to help make decisions of how much housing and what type is needed. Adding this housing will also foster a greater sense of community between our first responders.

Per Commissioner Engelmann, we can raise money for this via donations, a bond, a loan, or a lease to own. We will need to charge a rent fee that is reasonable for the tenants, but allows us to pay for the units we are putting in. Chief Robrahn believes that the private donations are out there, as does Chairman Gray. Everyone in our community is aware that we have a housing problem, which Chief Robrahn believes in only going to continue to get worse in the next five to ten years. We are lucky to be an entity that has the land and opportunity to provide much needed housing to our first responders.

Commissioner Engelmann stated that we should create a master development plan to build for maximum capacity at the site, and from that build a story to show potential donors what we are planning, with written details and pictures. We can also educate the public on how the ambulance district and the emergency response system in the county works. It is likely assumed that an ambulance could come from the Greenhorn Station, which is not the case. By having more housing at Greenhorn, it creates the possibility of having duty housing for on-call staff, increasing response capabilities from the location. Chairman Gray agrees that we need to create a plan, and break it down into achievable phases, and create a preliminary budget. Commissioner Engelmann says that with this plan, and our reason for building (providing housing for our first responders and through that ensuring greater levels of safety for our community), we can then go to the public and ask for donations.

Chief Robrahn requested a sit down between himself, Chief Bauer, and the commissioners to look at site plans and create a timeline for this process, so that we make sure to continue moving forward. Chief Bauer believes that next week's strategic planning session for the ambulance district will provide us with

more information on the level of support we might get from the other fire departments on this project. This housing will help us to keep our first responders in our community, which is good for everyone. By providing this affordable housing, we can enable our firefighters to be able to not only live here, but also be able to participate in the community by going out to eat, buy a pair of skis, and utilize the area in which we live.

Chief Bauer and Chief Robrahn will work to get a survey completed on the level of need for this housing, and create a baseline plan for the beginning of December. Chairman Gray stated that it is important to take our time to create a good and workable plan, and then work on raising the funds. With a good plan in place, we will be able to raise the funds, even if that is after the new year.

11. Discussion: Old Business.

Chairman Gray requested additional information about the possibility of a cell tower being placed by Greenhorn Station. Chief Robrahn met with a representative of AT&T First Net, who is going to reach out to their site selection team and then give us information on what it would look like to put a cell tower there. Chairman Gray inquired about any potential dangers the tower could have for the residents at Greenhorn.

Reminder that next month's regular meeting scheduled for December 8th has been cancelled because the Council Chambers will be being used all week by auditors for the City of Sun Valley. The meeting has been rescheduled as a special meeting on Wednesday December 15th.

12. Public Comment.

None.

13. Adjournment.

MOTION

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

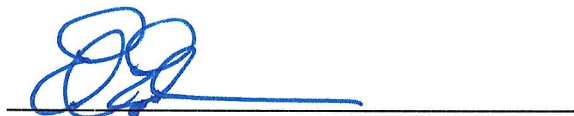
AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Engelmann.

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.



James E. Gray, Commissioner/Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Commissioner/Secretary