

**Regular Meeting & Budget Hearing of the North Blaine County Fire
District in the Council Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID
August 11, 2021, at 10:00 AM**

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of the August 2021 Claims.

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the August 2021 Claims, seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, and Commissioner Michael.

NAYS: None.

4. Approval of the July 21, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the July 21, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, and Commissioner Michael.

NAYS: None.

5. Discussion and possible adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

Chairman Gray opened the hearing at 10:11 a.m.

Chief Robrahn stated the only change from previous presentations is the addition of \$50,000.00 requested by Commissioner Michael for the Greenhorn Station housing. The total of the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget is \$676,100.00.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to adopt the fiscal year 2022 budget as presented, seconded by Commissioner Michael. A Roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, and Commissioner Michael.

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray closed the hearing at 10:15 a.m.

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

Chief Bauer gave an update on recent calls responded to by North Blaine County Fire District. The Red Devil fire was a small 5-acre fire on the ridgeline in full view of the citizens of Cutters and Deerfield. There was a good response from Sun Valley Engine 66, as well as NBCFD Engine 10 and Tanker 2 out of the Greenhorn Station, as well as Chief Bauer. There was a report of a fire near the Engel residence, close to Cold Springs. This fire was a 20 X 20 patch of undergrowth burning due to a lightning strike of a tree.

Engine 2 is currently out of service. It is in Jerome waiting on parts.

Chief Bauer gave an update on the Blaine County Ambulance District strategic plan study. The district has hired a consulting firm from Sacramento, CA called AP Trident to complete the study.

Walt Femling stated he spoke at the ambulance budget meeting, representing 8 elected officials. He stated that our two jurisdictions (City of Sun Valley & North Blaine County Fire District) have over five billion dollars in assessed value, we are paying almost 50%, and we don't get one single dollar out of it. We may want to take our own funds. We do not want the ambulance district to ignore this until fiscal year 2023. Walt Femling requested one million dollars to be put in a contingency fund. In response the ambulance district placed \$750,000.00 in a contingency fund. When the ambulance district was created, a board was not created. It defaulted to the county commissioners. Walt Femling further stated that we need a broader representation to have a board of five people, for instance one county commissioner, one fire commissioner, one mayor, etc. We are not getting the same level of service. Every city and every district in Blaine County have an ambulance, except North Blaine County Fire District. In January 2022 when we receive the results of this study, we should all be prepared to attend the ambulance district meeting. It is absolutely wrong that a special use tax which has a fund balance of over 110% is not being used. All those funds should be used. This is property tax, not LOT tax that fluctuates.

Commissioner Engelmann stated what we need to do is to create another commission to oversee the ambulance district since it is being mis-managed. We need to take it out of the total control of Blaine County. Walt Femling explained that the original intent was to create an ambulance board represented by the people who pay into it. Chief Bauer stated we all just want to do the right thing and improve the quality of life and better serve our citizens.

Chief Bauer stated that the first round of interviews will begin tomorrow to hire an administrative assistant to replace Trish. Additional interviews may be conducted. We are going to take our time and make sure we have the best fit for the district.

Chief Bauer gave an update of the districts' rural water supply. The teams are finishing up the annual testing of the cisterns.

Chief Bauer reviewed the tentative fee schedule.

Chief Bauer stated it has been almost two years now that the City of Sun Valley has been managing the fire district, which is fairing quite well financially. Chief Bauer took the time to thank the Commissioners, Chief Robrahn, Walt Femling and Trish Smith for assisting him in the budgeting process since the financial aspect of firefighting is new to him. He is very proud of the work we have completed such as adding transparency and doing the best we can for our taxpayers.

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

Chief Robrahn thanked Chief Bauer and the entire team for last Friday's effort and a job well done!

He discussed fuel modeling. Before this large wave of monsoonal moisture, we were in bad shape. We are a bit better now, but it depends on if we get more moisture and cooler weather.

It has been very busy in terms of calls and events. The symphony is back in full swing. We are seeing 2,500-4,000 in attendance We anticipate some of the larger ones to have 7,000-8,000 attendees. There

are a few concerts scheduled for the pavilion that we anticipate will have large numbers. The Sun Valley team has been doing a great job. Moving forward, the wildfire risk is still evident. We do not want anyone to drop their guard just because it has cooled down, and we've received some moisture.

8. Presentation of the prospective North Blaine County Fire District Fee Schedule.

This item was covered in item number 6, Chief Bauer's monthly report.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding the Idaho Transportation Department Lease Agreement.

Chief Robrahn gave an update on the ITD (Idaho Transportation Department) Lease Agreement. Chief Bauer, Chief Robrahn, and Walt Femling met with the city attorney (Matt Johnson) on Thursday. The city attorney did not have any major issues with the document. If there are any issues in the future, the court will be in Ada County, presumably because ITD is headquartered in Boise, ID. With this agreement being a fifty year and a one-hundred-year lease, from ITD, (which the city attorney has reviewed hundreds of ITD leases with his firm), we should not have any concerns with this lease agreement. ITD seems to be willing to move forward quickly with this lease agreement. Chairman Gray stated he feels comfortable with the amount of review this lease agreement has had. He does not feel the need to bring our attorney into this situation. Commissioner Michael stated this has been vetted thoroughly and she supports approving the lease agreement today. Commissioner Engelmann stated he is very hesitant to send this back to ITD with any improvements requested, he thinks we should approve it. Chief Robrahn stated the "Exhibit A" section of the lease agreement is being worked on by Galena Engineering to get the plat of the property that will be included in the lease. Chief Robrahn and Chief Bauer are meeting with Galena Engineering on Tuesday to finalize the parcel of land.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the Lease Agreement between Idaho Transportation Department and North Blaine County Fire District and the City of Sun Valley as written and sign it once Exhibit A has been received, seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, and Commissioner Michael.

NAYS: None.

10. Discussion: Old Business.

Chief Bauer spoke with Chief Kimball of the Carey Rural Fire Protection District. Chief Kimball is very excited to take delivery of Tanker 3. Trish is working on the agreement stating the tanker will remain in Blaine County for five years. The commissioners would like to have the transfer take place at the Greenhorn Fire Station, with a date and time to be announced later.

Commissioner Michael spoke with County Commissioner Fosbury who stated the county believes in having a strategic plan to place heli tanks throughout the county to protect rural areas. The county would like to move forward with grant writing to raise funds for heli tanks.

11. Public Comment.

None.

12. Adjournment.

MOTION

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

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, and Commissioner Michael

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.



James E. Gray, Commissioner/Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Commissioner/Secretary