

Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID September 08, 2021, at 10:00 AM.

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 2021 Claims.

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the September 08, 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 August 11, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the August 11, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

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

NAYS: None.

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

Chief Bauer introduced Rachel Wayt who will be taking over for Trish Smith and thanked Trish for her service. It is great that Trish will still be working for the city and can assist with the transition and answer any questions in the future. Chairman Gray welcomed and thanked Rachel for accepting the position. He also took this time to thank Nancy Flannigan for filling in for Trish while she is out today.

Chief Bauer stated that Pierce Manufacturing will begin sending photos of the new pumper tanker in November 2021. He gave an update on the Blaine County Ambulance Districts' strategic planning process; the committee is planning on having a retreat the week of November 15, 2021. Last week, the Sun Valley City Council approved the Ground Lease Agreement with Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), we hope to have Commissioner Gray sign that agreement for North Blaine County Fire District today. Chief Bauer stated we are currently under budget, and we hope to finish the fiscal year with a surplus of at least \$20,000.00, probably more. We do have some end of the fiscal year purchases that

need to be completed, such as equipment upgrades, communication upgrades and the renovation of one of the residential units at the Greenhorn Station. The Commissioners discussed maximizing the area at the Greenhorn Station for fire-fighter housing. Chief Bauer gave an update on the Jakes Gulch Fire, we may send some resources for structure protection. A special meeting was set for September 29, 2021, to approve the end of the fiscal year claims. Chief Bauer gave a general update on Covid. Chief Robrahn stated the vaccine is the solution to get out of this pandemic.

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

Chief Robrahn stated that Chief Bauer covered most of what he wanted to report. He thanked Nancy Flannigan for jumping in and helping with this meeting. He is excited to welcome Rachel Wayt as the new administrative assistant, she will be a great addition to the team! He reassured the Commissioners that the SAFER Grant is still in the works, and we are waiting to hear the results.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding the Fire Services Agreement with the City of Sun Valley.

Chairman Gray explained that he wanted to extend the agreement to a three-year contract since we are about to sign a contract with the Idaho Department of Transportation and the City of Sun Valley for a ground lease at the Greenhorn Fire Station to provide additional housing for our fire-fighters. Chief Robrahn explained that the contract price will not increase more than 3% per year.

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the Fire Services Agreement with the City of Sun Valley, effective October 01, 2021, for a term of three years; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

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

NAYS: None.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding leasing space at Greenhorn Station for a cell tower.

Chairman Gray explained that this idea was brought to him by some clients that live in Greenhorn and in East Fork. They were wondering if there might be an opportunity for North Blaine County Fire District to install a cell tower at the Greenhorn Station since cell service in their areas are spotty. It is Chairman Gray's understanding that if this occurs, it's very likely that Verizon or AT&T would like to lease it, which could generate \$10,000.00+ per year. He believes this would add to public safety, although most likely this would require County Commissioner approval. Commissioner Michael stated that Greenhorn Station is in the scenic corridor and Blaine County has very strict land use rules regarding cell towers. She would certainly support this after the proponent receives the necessary permits from the County. She would like to see it go through the permitting process before we sign any such lease. Chairman Gray asked Chief Bauer to investigate this further. Chief Robrahn requested, if a cell tower at Greenhorn Station was viable, that we ask the cell company to add one of our antennas, or a repeater associated with their tower for radio communications. Reception areas for emergency radios is an item that Blaine County as a whole needs to work on. In general, Commissioner Engelmann agrees with the cell tower project to increase public safety and have better communication throughout the valley. He cautioned that we are careful not to damage the housing project because of citizens not wanting a cell tower located there. Commissioner Michael agrees with the concept of having a cell tower at Greenhorn

Station, but she does not want our limited staff tasked with this, possibly taking their time away from the fire-fighter housing project. Chairman Gray agrees, and simply requests that Chief Bauer contact the cell companies to see if there is any interest. If so, it may be possible to create a citizen committee to assist with this project.

9. Schedule the end of fiscal year 2021 Special Meeting.

A special meeting was scheduled for September 29, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

10. Discussion: Old Business.

None.

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 10:49 a.m.



James E Gray, Commissioner/Chairman



~~Earl Engelmann, Commissioner/Secretary~~

Sarah Michael Treasurer