

**Special Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District  
In the Council Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID  
July 21, 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. Approval of the July 2021 Claims\*.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the July 2021 claims, seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Michael

NAYS: None.

4. Approval of the June 09, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes\*.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the June 09, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Michael

NAYS: None.

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

Chief Bauer gave an update on the housing project at Greenhorn Station. An agreement has been signed with Galena Engineering to perform the site plan. The site plan will provide the description required for the with ITD (Idaho Transportation Department). Once the lease with ITD has been signed, we will submit an RFP (Request for Proposal) for housing. We would like to start with 2 more duplexes, each having a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom unit. Chairman Gray asked that we make sure we show the site plans to John Peavey for his review of the sheep easement. Chief Robrahn added that the site plan that Galena is working on right now will determine how many units can be put in the space. Chief Bauer gave an update on the Blaine County Ambulance District Strategic Plan. There is a deadline for the current contract holders to submit their budget for FY 2022, the commissioners asked that they request the usual 3% increase per the norm. The committee is currently reviewing consulting companies and will make recommendations on Thursday as to who will conduct the study for the ambulance district. City of Sun Valley City Administrator Walt Femling stated he spoke at the ambulance budget meeting and spoke on all our behalf in regard to how much money we pay into the district and what we get back in return. At this point we will go along with the findings of the consultants. He requested the ambulance district to set aside \$1,000,000.00 to pay the consultants so we don't have to wait. He also informed them that

their fund balance was not appropriate, the money should be out savings lives, not sitting in a savings account. Chief Bauer gave an update on Trish's position. We have received about 6 applications, which will be reviewed over the next few days. Engine 3 required repairs, and Chief Bauer thanked Lieutenant Slater Storey for getting that engine fixed quickly. Chief Bauer met with the live ins recently. We are working on updating the housing policies and creating a handbook, which talks about life at the district stations. It will clearly outline the requirement for living in those stations. At the August 11, 2021, meeting Chief Bauer will present the new fee schedule. We have collaborated with Wood River Fire and Rescue to have a more consistent schedule. Chief Bauer attended a great leadership course at the National Fire Academy last week. He stated the wildland firefighting resources in the west are stretched. When we have these fires, they are ranked by priority. The ranking re-directs resources. The regional wildland firefighting resources are stressed, and we will be in the thick of it until October 1, 2021, unless the weather changes. Chief Robrahn added that we recently went to a PL (preparedness level) 5, which is the highest level possible. It means multiple large fire incidences are currently burning throughout the country. A PL level 5 also means that resources are thin, and it's difficult to get resources when needed. Chiefs Bauer and Robrahn made the decision to hold all our resources here because of the threat due to the extreme drought, and to maintain our personnel and not wear them out. The Sawtooth Forest has a helicopter base at the SNRA (Sawtooth National Recreation Area) up north. Chief Bauer stated the Idaho Mountain Express newspaper has done a terrific job sending the local messages about the drought and potential wildfires.

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

Chief Robrahn gave an update from the Sun Valley Fire Department. They have completed their initial FY (fiscal year) 2022 budget. Some requests include an additional fire-fighter/paramedic staff member and a new Type 3 wildland apparatus. He thanked the commission for moving ahead with the housing for first responders. Chief Bauer reached out to the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and was informed to receive land free of charge is done through the Recreation and Public Purposes act, unfortunately, the BLM is not allowed to authorize Recreation and Public Purposes Act projects that include housing. Chief Robrahn will have a follow up meeting with the BLM to discuss options. Commissioner Michael asked if there is currently an ambulance at the Greenhorn Station that is operated by the City of Ketchum. Chief Robrahn replied that there is an unstaffed/volunteer response ambulance at the Greenhorn Station. We have a few dual members who live at the Greenhorn Station. Our goal is to have a guaranteed response, rather than a volunteer response. Chief Bauer stated we are storing the ambulance at the Greenhorn Station because we believe ethically that it is the right thing to do. We are not receiving any money from the ambulance district or Ketchum Fire. This ambulance is only for Ketchum personnel. There is no agreement allowing Sun Valley personnel. Chief Robrahn stated there is no update on the Safer Grant at this time.

7. Discussion and possible approval regarding bank account changes \*.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Michael moved to add Fire Chief Rich Bauer as an authorized user on the Ketchum Rural Fire Protection Districts' Local Government Investment Pool accounts. These accounts being the operating account# 1596 and the replacement account# 2197 located with the Idaho State Treasurer, seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Michael.

NAYS: None.

8. Discussion and possible approval to donate Tanker 3 to the Carey Fire Department\*.

Chairman Gray would like to keep the vehicle locally. Commissioner Michael asked why Carey was chosen over Smiley Creek. Chief Robrahn, spoke with the Smiley Creek Fire Department and they had no interest in this apparatus. When speaking with Carey Rural Fire Protection District, they were interested in the apparatus. Carey is a mutual aid partner of ours. If they do receive that apparatus, they plan on repairing it and parking it at the Gannett Fire Station.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the donation of Tanker 3 to the Carey Fire Department, seconded by Chairman Gray. A Roll Call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Michael.

NAYS: None.

9. Discussion and possible tentative approval of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget\*.

Chief Robrahn spoke of the proposed FY 2022 Budget. He gave an overview of the line items and justifications. He stated there will be an increase in the new contract for services between the District and the City. The position to replace Trish will be a 30 hour a week (versus the current 20 hours per week) position with benefits. This position has increased responsibilities such as in house accounting. Another increase is a proposed 5% merit and cost of living increase for staff through the City of Sun Valley. This percentage is comparable with proposed increases throughout the county. Commissioner Michael requested \$50,000.00 in line item 10-425-631, Greenhorn New Housing. Chairman Gray agreed with the request. Trish explained the revenue projections by category.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Michael moved to tentatively approve the FY 2022 budget with the addition of \$50,000.00 to line item 10-425-631, Greenhorn New Housing, to have a tentative budget of \$676,100.00, seconded by Chairman Gray. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Michael.

NAYS: None.



10. Discussion: Old Business.

Chairman Gray requested an action item on the August 11, 2021, meeting agenda for the new contract for services between the North Blaine County Fire District and the City of Sun Valley. He would like this contract to be a 3-year contract due to all the projects that are in motion such as housing, ambulance, and the possible grant award. He believes it is important for us to have consistency as we tackle these projects. He also wanted to recognize the extremely excellent leadership that has been received from the City of Sun Valley.

Commissioner Michael requested for mid fiscal year 2022 and pre-budget for fiscal year 2023 to have a matrix of call volumes to include response numbers, types of calls and number of mutual aid calls.

11. Public Comment.

None.

12. Adjournment\*.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Michael moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Gray. A role call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray and Commissioner Michael.

NAYS: None.

11:15 a.m.



James E. Gray, Commissioner/Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Commissioner/Secretary