

**Special Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council  
Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00 AM.**

Chairman Gray – Absent.

Commissioner Michael – Remote- present via phone.

Commissioner Engelmann – Present in person.

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Engelmann called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of the November 2022 Claims\*.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the November 9, 2022, claims; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

4. Approval of the October 19th, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes\*.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the October 19, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

5. Discussion and possible approval of the 2023 meeting schedule\*.

Brief discussion was had, and Commissioners Michael and Engelmann are comfortable continuing the same meeting schedule the second Wednesday of each month.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Michael moved to approve and adopt Resolution 2022-02 – 2022 Meeting Schedule for the year 2023; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann; Commissioner Michael

Nays: None.

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

Chiefs Bauer and Robrahn have been meeting with fire chiefs of Wood River Fire & Rescue to discuss cooperative efforts between the SVFD, NBCFD, and WRFR. They have been discussing how to work together, especially from Greenhorn Fire Station, which borders the Wood River Fire & Rescue District. They have talked about additional assistance with vehicle extrication. They will continue to have conversation on how to work together and how to serve their constituents better.

Commissioner Engelmann thinks it is great to continue those talks. He wants to know if there is anything he can do to keep these conversations and potential action moving forward.

Commissioner Michael asked if there is opportunity to have similar conversations with the Ketchum Fire Department? Chief Robrahn responded by saying that he has emailed KFD Chiefs several times to discuss communication issues (such as radio), with no response. That makes it difficult to get a closer relationship with them. Working with Wood River makes sense because they *want* to work together with us, and have similar values and cultures to SVFD and NBCFD.

Commissioner Michael is concerned because what Chiefs Robrahn and Bauer are saying is that the elected leadership at the City of Ketchum is not encouraging their Fire Chiefs to coordinate with other local public resource first responder agencies. These communications should be encouraged at a higher level. Chief Bauer responded by saying that our door is always open. When KFD pulled their ambulance from Greenhorn, there was no conversation about it at all until they were in a meeting with County and City Administrators. This is a good example of the way they choose to communicate.

City Administrator Walt Femling said he has been down this path several times during consolidation efforts, and it is important to bring partners in at the right time. We have a willing partner in WRFR and Ketchum will come to the table in their own time. Walt and Mayor Hendricks have sat down with Ketchum Mayor Neil Bradshaw and City Administrator Jade Riley to let them know about the discussions being held with WRFR. Commissioner Engelmann has also had discussions with Mayor Bradshaw, and he does not see anything moving forward very quickly with our relationship with the City of Ketchum. Commissioner Michael understands and will continue to check on the progress of this relationship. Commissioner Engelmann says we can use this collaborative with WRFR as an example of positive relations between districts or departments. If we are to consider consolidation, this is a great start.

There was a Blaine County Ambulance District meeting on Monday, topics included updates to the strategic plan and initiatives. The County has hired a financial consultant, who has determined that the current financial contract structure of the ambulance district will be unsustainable in the next couple of years.

The state of Idaho is hiring six state EMS planners, who are going to review and develop EMS processes for each county in the state of Idaho, starting in 2023. The goal of this is to ensure appropriate medical responses to every county in the state.

The trauma conference last weekend was great. It is 2 full days, and they have lots of speakers, and did great talks on first responder wellness. One of the speakers spoke about their own trauma and was a great example of resilience. There were over 450 first responders there, and 12 of our FF and EMTs attended.

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

Chief Robrahn reiterated that the trauma conference was great, and the fact that it is hosted in the City of Sun Valley means that we can send many of our staff to it without them having to travel.

Sarah Driggs is the newest hire for the fire department. She is one of the Greenhorn Live-Ins and has been a volunteer for a couple of years. She plans to start her paramedic program in May. We are very excited to add her as a full time member of our team.

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

Chief Robrahn gave an update regarding the project. We are all a little disappointed about having to delay the starting the excavation and infrastructure work for the housing project. This weather we are having right now would have proved to be terrible working conditions on trying to move things forward. We had such a tight timeframe in the fall that contractors would not have had enough time to get the project going.

We have come up with a new timeline. We will open up bids in February, and go through approvals to award the bid in March, maybe getting into the ground as soon as April, depending on weather conditions. Hopefully this plan gets us more bidders, and once we have chosen the contractor they will have time to order supplies and be ready to go. We have new plans back from Galena Engineering, and Mike Matthias is working on the building permit submittals. With all of this, we will be ready to hit the ground running in the spring. Commissioner Engelmann stated that he thinks this is a very wise decision for the project. With the location of our site, it may enable us to get going there earlier in the spring before other projects up north get going.

Commissioner Michael has spoken to someone from the state in reference to housing related grants. These are only available for single income households under \$45K and dual income under \$55k per year. She would like to know if our residents might qualify for this? Chief Robrahn has seen some information regarding grants, and he believes that most if not all of the live-ins exceed those income limits.

Commissioner Engelmann asked about digital fundraising packets and mailers. Commissioner Michael answered that Mary Austin Crofts has been putting together a mailer that will go out to everyone in the district. She will call Mary after the meeting regarding digital packets.

Walt announced that the City spent \$27,000 from the Greenhorn Housing Lease this month. Commissioner Michael asked if those documents can be sent out and Jocelin will start sending them with the meeting documents each month.

Chief Bauer announced that we are up to \$400K raised in our fundraising efforts. Commissioner Engelmann has spoken to people that were not aware that Greenhorn is their fire station, so maybe in the mailer we explain where the district is located.

## 9. Discussion: Old Business.

None.

10. Public Comment.

None.

11. Adjournment\*.

**MOTION**

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

AYES: Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None.

Commissioner Engelmann declared the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

*Remote*

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Earl Engelmann, Secretary

*Sarah Michael*

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Sarah Michael, Treasurer