

Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID August 14th, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

[1. Call to Order.](#)

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

[2. Public Comment.](#)

None.

[3. BUDGET HEARING: Discussion and possible adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget*.](#)

Chairman Gray opened the hearing at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Gray asks if there were any changes made to the budget since our last meeting, and Jocelin notes that there is a small change in our revenue predictions based on completing our L-2s. We will collect about \$200 less in property taxes than initially predicted. There are no changes to the planned expenditures.

Commissioner Michael notes that we will have to transfer about \$103,000 out of our LGIP account next year if we spend what we have budgeted.

MOTION:

Commissioner Michael moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget of \$841,881, seconded by Commissioner Engelmann.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

Commissioner Michael asks if the Blaine County Ambulance District approves extra funds for Sun Valley in their FY 2025 request, will the City of Sun Valley cover any extra costs that the District could incur because of this? It is decided to discuss this in old business.

The Budget Hearing was closed at 10:03 a.m.

[4. Approval of the August 2024 Claims*.](#)

MOTION:

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the August 14th 2024 claims; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

[5. Approval of the July 10th 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes*](#)

MOTION:

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the July 10th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Sarah Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, Commissioner Michael

NAYS: None

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

Chief Robrahn is on vacation this week, so Chief Bauer is giving an update for both Chiefs. Upgrades have continued on the Greenhorn 100 Units; electricians will be finishing up this week and new carpeting is going in next week. We anticipate these being ready for occupancy relatively soon.

Chairman Gray asks how many people are living in our Greenhorn and Griffin Butte Housing altogether? Chief Bauer answers that once we have one more couple move in, he estimates we will have 25 people living in the units. Commissioner Gray comments that he is proud that small entities like the District and City have been able to create this workforce housing, and that we did it as a true collaboration. We partnered with Idaho Department of Transportation and Blaine County Commissioners to get this done, and he wants to know why other local government agencies have not also collaborated like this to get additional workforce housing created.

Commissioner Michael asks if the Griffin Butte units are two bedrooms, and Chief Bauer answers yes. There is one person in one of those units, and the other unit is a couple.

We did some recent promotions within the department. Matt Hansen and Julie Youngblood have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and Captain Reid Black has been promoted to Division Chief of Prevention. Chief Bauer would like to thank Reid for all of the assistance he provides the District for Fire Marshal related tasks. He is currently out on a wildfire in Oregon.

The Fire Department has been awarded a large FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to upgrade and expand our radio and communications equipment. The award is almost \$300,000, and it will benefit the District as well as the City. With this grant, we will be able to make sure that our firefighters all have portable dual band radios that allow us to also communicate with our law enforcement partners on incidents. We are always looking to improve communications on incidents, and this will certainly help us with that. Captain Ricky Williams wrote the grant and Chief Robrahn resubmitted it. It's a really big deal that we have received this grant. Chairman Gray would like Chief Bauer to pass the Commissioners' thanks on to Captain Williams and Chief Robrahn.

The Blaine County Ambulance District has tentatively approved the request the City has submitted for about \$325,000 of funding in FY 2025. With this funding we will be able to hire one additional full time staff member, and start providing Basic Life Support (BLS) from Greenhorn Station to the southern portion of the fire district. It will also allow us to purchase equipment for our Engine 3 at

Greenhorn, enabling us to respond with Advanced Life Support (ALS) or paramedic level capabilities.

Commissioner Michael asks, if in the future, the ambulance district give less funding, will we have to cut a staff member or ask the District to contribute more? Chief Bauer says that in the worst case scenario, the Ambulance District only funds two positions right now, and we would find a way to keep those staff on with the City. Chairman Gray asks, if the Ambulance District were to stop the funding the City of Sun Valley, would that take away the future opportunities for the District to receives funds? Does the contract between the City and the Ambulance District extend down through the Fire District? Jim Keating, City Administrator, says that this year we were very clear in our funding request that the request is for the City and the District. The City is the main applicant that the funds go through, but we share all of the benefits of how the funds are used, including use throughout the District. Previous requests of the Ambulance District were focused on creating ALS services in the City of Sun Valley, and this year's request is for us to extend BLS capability from Greenhorn Station as a combined entity. Jim, the Mayor, and the Chiefs believe that we need to be describing ourselves more accurately as a consolidated services partnership. More articulation of this true partnership should be in our future.

Chief Bauer says that all of these accomplishments he has mentioned today – Greenhorn Housing, the FEMA Grant, and Ambulance District Funds, are great examples of our successful partnership together. These are all huge, thoughtful, well planned steps in the right direction.

Commissioner Michael comments that this is a great partnership, but as a District we still need to be careful not to continue spending down our reserves. If we look forward in our partnership in continuing to expand services, we have to consider that our revenues are not expanding in the same way.

Chief Bauer says that his last update is that last week he went to the Wood River Women's Foundation annual dinner showcasing their grantees. The Foundation gave us another \$25,000 this year, bringing their total contributions to the project to \$45,000. He received a lot of positive feedback about the project, and they were very happy to be able to contribute to our cause. Chairman Gray had dinner with one of the women from the Foundation, and she was equally enthusiastic about the project as well.

[7. Updates, discussion, and possible action regarding Greenhorn Housing Project*](#)

Chief Bauer says that we are going to have to go back to Blaine County P&Z on September 12th to make sure our berm is permitted and to their liking.

Jim Keating says that about two and a half years ago, the District and City went to the County with a basic site plan of the project with a small berm on the southern end of NBCFD's part of the property. We then partnered with ITD to lease land and secured an encroachment permit with them. With that we planned to build a larger berm than originally proposed. We sent the formal landscaping plan from Ashley Boand to Rachel Martin with Blaine County this year, and got a response indicating we were approved to move forward with the berm building, which we then proceeded to work on. About two weeks ago Rachel Martin reached out to project manager Matt

Smithman with some questions, including if we were consistent with our original CUP several years ago. She noted that our originally planned berm is different than the newest plan, which we had already noted to her when we sent the updated landscaping plans. She is not comfortable making an administrative review change without additional approval of P&Z, and that is why we are going back for the September 12th meeting. She has indicated to Jim that her intent is to write a favorable staff review that we will be able to see before the meeting. Chairman Gray adds that Blaine County P&Z does not have jurisdiction on the portion of the berm on ITD land, and Jim clarifies that half of the berm is on ITD land and half is on County land.

8. Discussion: Old Business.

None.

9. Public Comment.

None.

10. Adjournment*.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Michael.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, Commissioner Michael

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.



Jed Gray, Chairman



Sarah Michael, Treasurer