

**Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District in the Council  
Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID  
September 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM.**

[1. Call to Order.](#)

Chairman Gray call the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

[2. Public Comment.](#)

None.

[3. Approval of the September 2024 Claims\\*.](#)

Commissioner Michael notes that we purchased and installed mailboxes at the Greenhorn Fire station, and all of the live-ins there have home delivery because it is a Hailey zip code. We are coming close to finish remodeling the Greenhorn 100 units, the Commissioners will schedule a visit out there soon.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the September 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 claims; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Michael, Commissioner Engelmann

NAYS: None

[4. Approval of the August 14th 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes\\*.](#)

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Sarah Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, Commissioner Michael

NAYS: None

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

Chief Bauer led a moment of silence to remember the lives lost in the 9/11 terrorist attacks 23 years ago. This event really reminds him of the importance of the work firefighters do. Chairman Gray also comments on the absolute dedication that those firefighters and police showed that day.

The Glendale Fire happened over Labor Day weekend. Chiefs Bauer, Robrahn, and Black all responded, as well as a lot of apparatus from Greenhorn and Elkhorn. Assistance from air support was essential in protecting structures where it started out Glendale Rd there. The property out there was all saved, and then the fire moved out Croy and Rock Creek. No structures were lost out there either. The fire started on land that is considered to be Blaine County Sherriff land, but Wood River and the other agencies all responded mutually.

Chief Bauer would like to thank Jocelin for all of her work on the Greenhorn 100 units; the renovations are nearly complete, with fresh paint, new carpets, new appliances, as well as other smaller updates. We have one Hailey firefighter getting ready to move in in October, and we will probably going to keep the other unit vacant for now for a potential new full hire.

The Ambulance District did increase their funding to the City and District this year, and we are getting ready initiate Basic Life Saving response out of Greenhorn to all medical calls in the southern portion of the District. Ideally we are starting this on October 1<sup>st</sup>. If there is a medic available, then they will be able to respond with Advanced Lifesaving Support. Chief Bauer explains some of the differences between a BLS and ALS response. This is a great step for the District and our citizens, as well a great step for cooperations with our response partners. Patient transport will still happen through Wood River or Ketchum Fire. Commissioner Michael would like to tour the renovated Greenhorn units, and at the same time see the configurations of the BLS engine. Chairman Gray says that these are the steps we have been aiming for. Thank you and congratulations to everyone who has worked so diligently to make this happen.

#### [6. Report: Monthly Update – Sun Valley Fire Chief, Taan Robrahn](#)

Chief Robrahn thanks Chief Bauer for his report, and Jocelin's work on the units. It is nice to see those units upgraded between tenants so we are making sure they are nice for new residents.

We are going to be hiring two people for the department, as Captain Slater Storey has announced his retirement as a full time member of our department. He has decided to take a step back from the department and focus on other aspects of his life. We will miss having him as a highly valued full time member of the department, but are happy he has decided to stay with us as an on-call member. Chairman Gray asked Chief Robrahn to give Captain Storey a big thank you from the Commissioners for all of his time and dedication to the department. He also asked if we are looking to promote someone to Captain from within current staff, and Chief Robrahn answered that he is still in discussions with the Mayor and City Administrator in regards to this.

As Chief Bauer noted last month, we have been chosen as recipients of a FEMA AFG grant allowing us to purchase multi-band radios. We were one of only five agencies in Idaho chosen to receive the grant. The Grant was written for the City of Sun Valley, but the District is getting the benefits of it as well. Right now police operate on VHF and fire operates on 700, and so most of our current radios do not allow police and fire to communicate with each other. We will be able to have radios on all apparatus and every responder will have a radio on each incident. There is a small spending match associated with this grant, Chief Robrahn thinks about 5% of cost, which the City has budgeted for in the upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioner Michael asked if Ketchum has purchased these multiband radios, and Chief Robrahn answered that he does not believe so. SVFD currently has a few in the department, but purchasing more will really increase communication capabilities. It would be very difficult to achieve this big purchase without the grant.

These radios will also be able to have SIM cards that enable cell service, as well as have GPS location capabilities. We have assembled a radio committee looking at what the best options will be for us. Commissioner Michael asked if there has been a press release associated with this Grant? Chief Robrahn answered that we will likely make an announcement when we decide what kind of radios we choose. It is also important to thank our higher level federally elected officials that make grants from a federal level like this possible. Chairman Gray asks if receiving this grant this year will preclude us from applying again? Chief Robrahn answers that we are able to continue to apply in future years of this grant.

Chairman Gray comments that he feels like with each meeting we are taking a step forward, and that is outstanding.

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

Jim Keating, City Administrator for the City of Sun Valley, says that we have an agenda item with Blaine County P&Z tomorrow evening at 6 pm. We are second on the agenda, and this will be in regards to the berm in front of the new Greenhorn housing, specifically to consider modifying our existing scenic highway overlay district permit, so that we can keep the berm as it is currently built. We received a staff report from the County last week, and reviewed it with City staff and project managers yesterday. The concern in regards to the berm is the location and property boundaries. The toe of the berm is on ITD land, which is state governed, not County governed. ITD has given their approval of the berm. The location of the berm is important in drainage, viewshed, and how it might shade the highway. Commissioner Michael asked what the County staff report says in regards to our landscaping plan. Jim says that we believe our planned landscaping is well in line with the standards of the highway overlay district.

Jim says the City staff has created a plan for the meeting. He will make a formal presentation, including the details of why the berm is in compliance, and also about how importance and value of the berm. We will elevate the importance of this, being ready for specific questions. He will mention the partnership, including the County, behind the berm, as well as its part in a project addressing one of the greatest needs in our valley. Matt Smithman and Ashley Board will both be there to answer questions, and there will be a formal public comment. Commissioner Michael comments that this entire project has been made under a conditional use permit, which is supposed to cover issues like this. She volunteers to attend the meeting, as a current Fire Commissioner and previous Blaine County Commissioner. Chairman Gray says he believes that this could have been approved administratively. Jim will provide the background of this project, the story of the collaboration between many public entities.

Assuming the County approves, Commissioner Michael asks, will the planting occur right away? Jim says that yes, we will be able to get the plants in. Irrigation work around the units has continued. Chairman Gray says that he has heard from the public in person and phone calls and they approve of how the berm looks and think it enhances the project. He says that we are working to create a community there, and the landscaping will really help this.

#### [8. Discussion: Old Business.](#)

Commissioner Michael says that we do not have an agenda item called new business. She would like to add that on future agendas right before old business.

9. Public Comment.

None.

10. Adjournment\*.

**MOTION**

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

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Chairman Gray, Commissioner Engelmann, Commissioner Michael

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.



Jed Gray, Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Secretary