

**Regular Meeting of the North Blaine County Fire District
In the Council Chambers – 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID
March 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM**

[1. Call to Order.](#)

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Present: Chairman Gray; Commissioner Engelmann; Commissioner Michael.

[2. Announcement by Chairman Gray.](#)

Chairman Gray will be out of town for the month of April. Commissioner Engelmann will be out of town for the month of April as well and will be out of range. Commissioner Michael will be here in person, Chairman Gray will call in. The April 14th, 2021 meeting agenda will only have the claims listed.

[3. Public Comment.](#)

None

[4. Approval of the Claims.](#)

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the March 2021 claims, seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

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

NAYS: None.

[5. Discussion and possible approval of the February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.](#)

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the February 10, 2021 regular meeting minutes of the North Blaine County Fire District, seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

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

NAYS: None.

[6. Discussion and possible motion regarding the Idaho Fire Commissioners' Association Membership.](#)

Chairman Gray spoke about the possibility of rejoining the Idaho Fire Commissioners' Association Membership. He questioned if it is it worth \$1,000.00 to rejoin? Commissioner Michael questioned if the Fire Chiefs' Association distributes legislative information. Chief Bauer stated the Idaho Association of Cities sends emails regarding legislative information. Chief Bateman was asked if the Wood River Fire & Rescue Commissioners are members of the Idaho Fire Commissioners' Association. He replied, they are not members at this time. Commissioner Engelmann does not have strong feelings one way or another. It sounds like we will get the information anyway through the Fire Chiefs' Association and the Idaho

Association of Cities. It was decided to not rejoin the Idaho fire Commissioners' Association. This topic can be revisited next year.

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

Chief Bauer reported that we are still transitioning all our contracts and financials over to the North Blaine County Fire District name. It will take a few more months. Last month we signed contracts with the US Forest Service and BLM (Bureau of Land Management) for the upcoming wildfire season. We are expecting a busy fire season and will wait until fall to change the names on the fire trucks and license plates, after fire season. Chief Bauer and Commissioner Engelmann met with County Commissioner Fosbury regarding housing and county medical. They will be meeting with County Commissioner Greenberg this afternoon. We recently signed an agreement to have our hose testing completed this year. It is very important to have the hoses tested, last year the testing was cancelled due to the pandemic. New home construction in the district is booming and is not slowing down anytime soon. Chief Bauer is completing a lot of plan reviews. Commissioner Michael asked how the district is paid for the plan reviews, and the sprinkler inspections. Chief Bauer explained the process. Chief Bauer presented a mid-fiscal year budget analysis.

[8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Bald Mountain Repeater Lease.](#)

Chairman Gray stated an email was received from Chief McLaughlin of Ketchum Fire, indicating that North Blaine County Fire District should not be the ones contracting with Sun Valley Company for the repeater on Bald Mountain. Chairman Gray asked Chief Robrahn to give an update on this, and a history of the towers. Chief Robrahn explained that we are in the midst of researching the history of this repeater. We would not simply cancel a lease that has been in existence for quite some time, because we were told to do so. Chief Robrahn and Trish met with Dean Newman who handles the agreements for Sun Valley Company. He was under the impression that NBCFD had been in contact and agreement with KFD regarding the changing of the lease for the repeater on Bald Mountain. He will not be creating any new leases until NBCFD and KFD have researched and discussed this matter and come to an agreement as to who should hold the lease.

Chairman Gray would like this resolved without it becoming a political issue.

Walt Femling stated that Chris Stephens asked him during the first year with the City of Sun Valley to investigate this, and he found Ketchum Rural was paying the entirety of the Baldy Repeater. Walt Femling negotiated this with the City of Ketchum to pay their share of the cost. Chairman Gray would like the Chiefs and Walt Femling to figure this out. Commissioner Engelmann would like Chairman Gray to assist in the communication problem regarding Chief McLaughlin. There appears to be no mutual desire to be transparent and communicative. It needs to be addressed with all people. This stems back to us leaving the City of Ketchum. There still seems to be ill will on their part.

The plan moving forward on this, is to continue the research, and from those results, put together a plan for what is needed.

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

Chief Robrahn reported it has almost been 1 year since Covid has taken its toll on our valley. He reported that most of the fire department personnel have been vaccinated. We have 15-minute rapid result tests on site, that we are able to administer to our personnel if needed. He acknowledged the staff both at the fire department and at the city for all their hard work. It is amazing to see the rolls of plans coming through the doors that resemble novels. When we talk about new structures, we are not

talking about the normal 2,000 square foot single-family residential homes that are in other parts of the country. We are seeing house plans of 8,000 – 12,000 square feet. While these are planned as single-family homes, they really are commercial structures. The grant application asked how many shopping centers or commercial structures we had over 5,000 square feet. A lot of our housing is over 5,000 square feet. Chief Robrahn recognized Chief Bateman for his work. He has done some amazing things, such as thinking outside of the box, especially with deployments. Chief Robrahn explained the staffing and simultaneous calls of Wood River Fire & Rescue. They have personnel and an ambulance staffed in Hailey. The North Blaine County Fire District cannot just be in the present, we need to look toward the future. Wood River is having simultaneous calls about every 4 days, just in the south county. This is the direction we are going. We need to be more prepared. Moving forward with the grant, we feel as we grow, we can improve response times, and the level of service. A discussion was had regarding new housing at Greenhorn & Griffin Butte stations. A safer grant is not to maintain staffing, it is for new staffing. This would be six additional personnel.

10. Discussion and possible approval of funds for a grant writer.

Chief Robrahn stated we are applying for a Safer grant, which is a grant designed for new staffing. It is not intended to assist with maintaining current staff. The goal for this grant is to staff Greenhorn Station. If we are approved for the grant, this would cover the staffing costs at Greenhorn Station for 3 years. In the 4th year, we would develop with our partners, a plan to maintain the staffing. The North Blaine County Fire Districts' share of the writer for the Safer grant is \$3,500.00.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve funds in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the writer of the safer grant, seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

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

NAYS: None.

11. Discussion: Old Business.

Commissioner Michael stated that she and Trish have been working on a list of items to link to our agendas when the item is a topic on the agenda. The list includes grants, audits, draft budgets, approved budgets, major contracts, and draft minutes. Commissioner Michael asked if we have an approved credit card policy yet. The response was, that policy has not been completed yet. Commissioner Michael will continue to check on the policy since fire season will be arriving soon and the credit card was approved to be used for fire deployments. Trish asked about the new address of the website. The two available known addresses are www.nbcfire.com and www.northblainefire.com. Chairman Gray would prefer www.northblainecountyfire.com if that is available, Commissioner Michael concurred.

12. Public Comment.

None.

13. 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 11:13 AM.



Sarah Michael, Commissioner/Treasurer



James E. Gray, Commissioner/Chairman