



Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue

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21696 Lake Wenatchee Highway  
Leavenworth, WA 98826

Phone: 509-763-3034  
lwfr.org

## **LWFR COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

### **December 18, 2025 10:00AM**

In attendance: Chairman Payne, via zoom, Commissioner Lamar, Commissioner Gibbs, Deputy Chief Foley,, District Secretary Kim Wiley

In audience: Steve Allen, Jody Allen, Rex McMillian, Admin Assistant Hayley Pobst, Tom Shay, Kelly McDaniels, David Stoeller. Diane Peterson, Guss Peiguss,

- I. Call to Order - Commissioner Lamar called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Approval of Agenda.
- IV. Public Input. Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

David Stoeller – Would like Commissioner Meetings to be available on Zoom, minutes to be posted in draft form on the website ASAP right after a meeting, and also would like a separate tab on the website for agenda & minutes. He also questioned what is on a “consent agenda” .

Steve Allen – thanked the District for helping so many people during the flooding and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Discussion after Public Comment – Chairman Payne stated that he was opposed to putting the meetings on Zoom except when one of the Commissioners is away. He stated that it was too hard to hear. He and Commissioner Lamar said that LWFR should look into a separate tab on the website for minutes and agendas. The Commissioners were opposed to putting draft minutes on the website.

- V. Correspondence - none
- VI. Consent Agenda - All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue's Board of Commissioners for reading and study. They are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Commissioners with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request. Commissioner Lamar made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Gibbs seconded, unanimously approved .
  - I. Approval of Minutes from the Special Meeting on November 13, 2025 and the Regular Meeting on November 20, 2025. Minutes were approved.
  - II. Approval of Monthly Vouchers:  
AP October 4: \$5,276.04  
AP October 11: \$8,519.41



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AP October 18: \$7383.76  
AP October 25: \$67,777.76  
October 5 Payroll benefits/deductions \$26,524.02  
October 5 Payroll: \$55,993.08

Commissioner Gibbs made a motion to approve the vouchers, Chairman Payne seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

VII. Finance, incident and Chief Report – Deputy Chief Foley stated we were transitioning to a new system for Incident Reports.

VIII. Old Business -

- Strategic planning; a date will be set in January 2026 to initiate the process. The first meeting will include one Commissioner, staff, operations and overall planning and focus on station repair and upgrade needs. More meetings will be scheduled later in the year.
- The summer fuels crew will be increased to reduce burnable fuel loadings. A fuels crew job announcement went out to the public and so far there have been 8+ candidates submitting resumes. Plan to find a Crew Boss and initiate the hiring in March/April timeframe.
- Budget 2026 was reviewed including new rules to remain within line item budget unless changes were discussed with the Board in advance. Based on guidance from the Commissioners, non personnel categories were reduced by 10 % and the saved funds were transferred to reserves. Commissioner Gibbs made a motion to approve the 2026 Budget, Chairman Payne seconded, budget was unanimously approved.
- Enduris Insurance - at the last meeting the Board asked if Enduris would cover the legal costs associated with the lawsuit settlement. The staff checked and the answer was no.
- Hayley Pobst conducted the swearing in of recently re-elected Commissioner William B Gibbs.

IX. New Business -

- Fire Chief Walker stated that he plans to retire sometime in the first half of 2026. Recruitment for the Chief's position will be posted on the website. The board approved Commissioner Lamar to look into the recruitment process, and he will do any required work related to this process.
- The position description and recruitment for Fire Chief was discussed. The application period will be open for 30 days.
- Commissioner Lamar discussed the need for continuing to improve communications capabilities in our areas. He mentioned areas with dead zones where we lose communications and the need for more repeaters. Steve Foley stated that we had started using Star Link to cover the gaps and also discussed setting up StarLink at Station 93 for the public to use during the storms and power outages.
- Resolution 2025-07 for the annexation of Standing Rock property. Chairman Payne made a motion to approve the annexation of 8 properties into Fire District 9, Commissioner Gibbs seconded, motion was unanimously approved. Chairman Payne wants to thank all involved in the annexing process.
- The need for a secondary evacuation route out of Ponderosa was discussed. There are ~350 homes in this area and LWFR will continue to push to get Camp 12 Road improved and reopened for emergencies.



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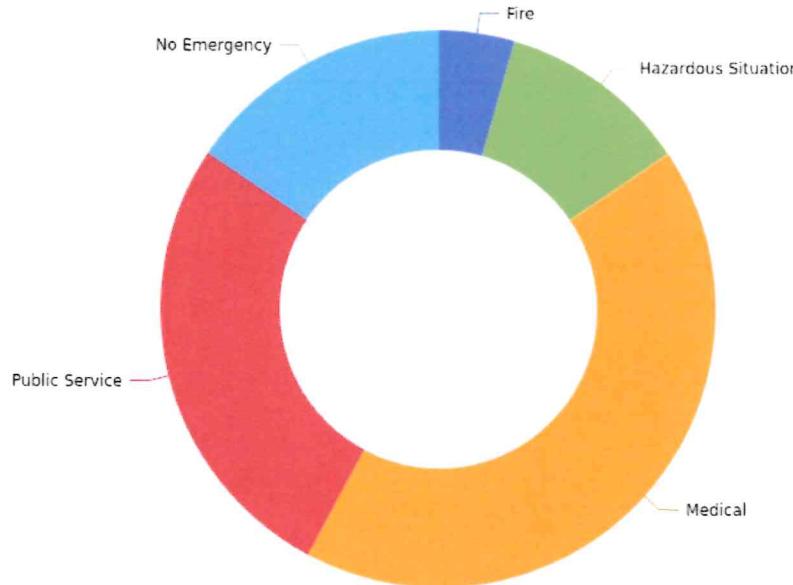
- Commissioner Lamar asked how Volunteer firefighters can receive the first \$50 per incentive pay to not be taxed as per federal Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA)
- Deputy Chief Foley thanked the Chelan County PUD for their rapid response to restore power after the storm.
- Commissioner Lamar will be the new Chairman of the Board after today's Commissioners Meeting.

The regular meeting concluded at 11:22 pm.

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Attest

*Kim Wiley*

**LWFR: Incident type summary by month-NERIS**December  
2025

PRIMARY INCIDENT GROUP	COUNT	PERCENT
Fire	2	4%
Hazardous Situation	5	11%
Medical	19	42%
Public Service	12	27%
No Emergency	7	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Description:** This report counts the number of incidents within each NERIS primary grouping

Dec 15th, 2025

- Standardized operating procedures for basic structural fire tactics are being developed by training and LT McMillian. The “plan A” assignments for responders give a basis for our training and expectations of tasks on scene.
- LWFR is readdressing the final annexation of remaining lots on Muletail Flats and Camp 12 rd. Annexation of 8 lots stalled with the county several years ago. With the road work and the camp 12 evacuation and fuels reduction projects taking place it is a good time to complete this task.
- LWFR has renewed its cooperative agreement with WA DNR for wildland and prescribed burning assignments in the Lake Wenatchee region and on State mobilizations. This agreement is for the next 5 years.
- The Pancake breakfast was wetter and warmer than usual but a good crowd turned out. It was good to see everyone interacting and Santa was a big hit as always! Thank you to everyone that made food, brought crafts, and put 42 baskets together.
- Chief Walker has announced his intention to retire in 2026. The board of Commissioners will be evaluating candidates internally and externally over the next few months. The expectation is to have a smooth transition and hand off prior to the 2026 fire season.
- A record breaking rain and wind event hit the State and our area. We are still cleaning up. DC Foley will be providing a summary of all the work our staff and firefighters did over the last week. Everyone performed exceptionally well and handled everything mother nature could throw at us.
- Officer Development Academy and EMT class start in January.  
*Starts in Jan for 8 classes*
- LWFR is hosting an Evacuation Management training class here in the district in January. Forest responders from across the region will be attending. The class will provide a framework for managing executions from wildfires and natural disasters to active shooters, bomb threats, and hazardous materials events.