

## **LWFR COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2026 10:00 AM**

**In Attendance:** Chairman Lamar, Commissioner Gibbs, Commissioner Payne (via Zoom), Chief Walker, Secretary Wiley

**In Audience:** Steve Foley, Mike Piroto, Rex McMillian, George Hiteshew, Jody Allen, Jimi Wilson, George Wilson, Stan Morgan, Steve Allen, Lisi Ott, Sally Fast, Tammy McKee, Stuart McKee, Andrea Walheim, Matthew Oaks, Laurie Aholt, David Stoller, Fred Guimond, Carol Kaspar, Scott Taylor, Greg Prentice, Franklin French, Rebecca Olson and Nan Bolton

- I. Call to Order. Chairman Lamar called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- III. New recruits (Blake Krastes, Stuart McKee, John Schweizer, and Runell Wiggins) were sworn in by Chairman Lamar
- IV. Approval of Agenda. Chief Walker requested to move Item k (Chiwawa River Pines Association) from New Business to before Public Input. Motion to approve agenda by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded Commissioner Payne. Agenda approved.
- V. Matt Oaks (President of Chiwawa Pines Homeowners Association) addressed the Commissioners regarding damage to the Chiwawa Pines water system occurring as a result of system usage during the Alder Lane fire. He detailed the damage and asked the Commissioners to mitigate the damage. Commissioners agreed to forward to the insurance company.
- VI. Public Input- Written comments will be provided to the governing bodies as required by law.

Lisa Ott - said her written comments from last month were not distributed in the printed minutes today. She added she never used the words shocked and disappointed in her comments the previous month. Ott said we are limiting her freedom of speech. She asked that her comments not be paraphrased. She asked the agenda be posted in a timely manner.

Steve Allen - asked what the status is on the new fire trucks and if there would be a chipping program this year. Chairman Lamar said those two issues would be addressed further in the meeting.

Stan Morgan - encouraged the fire district to run a new bond measure for a new fire station and to complete the repairs and upgrades needed at existing stations. He also mentioned costs are increasing and the needs are not going away.

Andrea Walheim - She said she is the President of the Chiwawa Mosquito District. She supports a clear code of conduct emphasising professionalism and integrity for the LWFR firefighters. She mentioned a firefighter filed a freedom of information act and a lawsuit against the Mosquito

District which caused the Mosquito District to expend taxpayer funds. Chairman Lamar asked if the firefighter was representing the district or if he was wearing a district uniform at the time. Walheim said no.

Matt Oaks - commented he saw the needs for the fire stations. He asked how the Chiwawa Pines HOA and residents could help to decrease fires in their neighborhood. Chairman Lamar explained the District was early in the process and appreciated the community support.

VII Correspondence - Chief Walker said he provided a letter of support to Senator Cantwell's office for two million dollars of Congressionally Directed Spending to establish a Wildfire Cache in the upper valley near Peshastin.

VIII 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. Chairman Gibbs moved to approve the consent Agenda as presented, Commissioner Payne seconded motion, consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting January 2, 2026

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting January 15, 2026

Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting January 27, 2026

Approval of Monthly Vouchers:

- AP January 9: \$56,589.43
- AP January 30: \$54,799.07
- January 5 Payroll benefits/deductions: \$9,861.91
- January 5 Payroll: \$73,911.0

IX Departmental Reports

- Finance Reports: Budget Position & Monthly Position. Chief Walker summarized the January and year to date financial reports. He commented that the new fire engines were still in Yakima waiting for some computer boards to be ordered.
- Incident Report-See attachment
- Department Reports - Chief's Report -See attachment

X Old Business

- Conditional offer to new Fire Chief - Chairman Lamar announced that a conditional offer was made to Deputy Chief Steve Foley. There will be an executive session today to discuss the contract.

Chairman Lamar thanked Chief Walker for six years of service to Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue. He noted numerous accomplishments that he instituted for the department.

- Membership to the Board of Volunteer Fire Fighters-Chairman Lamar discussed the need to establish a Board of Trustees for the Board of Volunteer Fire Fighters.

- Summer seasonal crew
- Job descriptions - Chairman Lamar said the Commissioners had time to individually review the job descriptions of various job titles within the department. He said he would like to entertain a motion to approve the job descriptions of the Commissioners, Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. Based on a motion by Gibbs, seconded by Payne the motion was approved.

Chairman Lamar said requested the new Chief review standing orders and create conduct/behavior policy within 45 days of being sworn in and complete other departmental positions within 90 days.

#### XI New Business

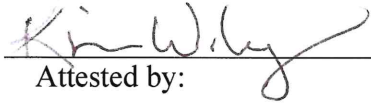
- Vacancy announcement - Chief Walker requested a wage matrix adjustment be made for certain vacant positions. Motion by Payne, seconded by Gibbs, motion passed.
- The Mechanic has left and we are seeking candidates and evaluating shifting to a regional mechanic system that would be shared with Districts 3,6, and 9.
- Annual banquet set for April 15, 2026
- Camp 12 road access/permit - Chairman Lamar mentioned there were about 400 lots in the Ponderosa with only one way in and one out. He mentioned we are moving forward with improving the road so that it could be used for emergency evacuations.
- Standing orders and conduct policy - to be reviewed for approval in 45 days
- Behavior and Conduct Policy-Chairman Lamar requested other Commissioners look at two other District's Commissioners Handbooks, Behavior and Conduct Policy
- New member package recommendation - Commissioners recommend the LWFR do a better job of conveying what the department can do for new members and what LWFR expects of new members.
- Facilities discussion with potential funding help from LWFR Association- Deputy Chief Foley gave an overview of a meeting the station officers held with the Chiefs and one commissioner to discuss the repair and upgrade needs and for each of the stations. He expects future meetings to address training, vehicle status and wildfire risk reduction.
- Metis Global Consulting
- Assistant Chief Position

XII Announcements - RiverCom sales tax ballot passed, will generate \$5,000,000 of revenue per year that will be used to create a new district center.

XIII Executive Session -Litigation & Fire Chief negotiation.. Those in the audience exited the room. Fire Chief contract negotiation. The Executive Session started at 11:11AM and concluded at 11:37AM

Regular session resumed. A motion by Payne, seconded by Gibbs to approve the contract for Steve Foley to become fire chief. Motion approved. Chairman Lamar said Foley would be sworn-in on March 19th and the contract would be effective March 25th, 2026.

Concluded regular session at 11:39 AM.

  
Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_