

## LWFR COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

### March 19, 2026 10:00 AM

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

**In Audience:** Mike Piroto, Tatiana Weiss, Jimi Wilson, George Wilson, Steve Allen, Laure Aholt, Rex McMillian, Jody Allen, Lisi Ott and Stan Morgan

- I. Call to Order. Chairman Lamar called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- III. Approval of Agenda. Chairman Lamar requested items be added to the agenda. He asked under old business Rivercom be added and executive session for candidate qualification be added along with consideration for Request for Proposal. Motion to approve agenda by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Payne. Agenda approved.
- IV. Public Input- Written comments will be provided to the governing bodies as required by law. No sign-ups to speak.
- V. Correspondence -Chairman Lamar said it wasn't official correspondence, but a community member mentioned to him if the District ever builds a new building, we should consider the SIPS structurally insulated panels. It is a system of insulation sandwiched between OSB boards.
- 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. Chairman Payne moved to approve the consent Agenda as presented, Commissioner Gibbs seconded motion, consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting February 19, 2026

Approval of Monthly Vouchers:

- AP February 20: \$21,352.97
- February 5 Payroll benefits/deductions: \$10,644.97
- February 5 Payroll: \$80,701.60

#### VII. Departmental Reports

- Finance Reports: Budget Position & Monthly Position. Acting Chief Foley summarized the February and year to date financial reports. He commented \$6,800 from medical transports on behalf of Cascade Medical came into the district. Expenditures of note were for payroll and getting equipment ready for the wildland fire season. Foley said some of the expenditures were

grant based where the department will be reimbursed. He added there is still income outstanding from last summer's mobilizations-see attachment

- Incident Report-Acting Chief Foley highlighted there were several house fires. Chairman Lamar suggested the Department create a press release to highlight house fire prevention-See Incident Report attachment
- Department Reports - Chief's Report -See attachment. Acting Chief Foley added that the department received a \$258,000 grant for three additional evacuation sirens.

#### VIII. Old Business

- Annual banquet is April 15, 2026 at Pine River Ranch
- Mechanic job description-Commissioner Payne complemented Acting Chief Foley on the comprehensive job description for mechanics. Chairman Lamar said Acting Chief Foley and the part-time mechanics have met with a mechanic candidate, Brian Force, and recommended him for the full-time mechanic position. Chairman Lamar said he has spoken with Brian by phone. A motion by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Payne, Brian Force will be hired as lead mechanic as on March 25, 2026.
- Membership to the Board of Volunteer Firefighters Trustee Program-Chairman Lamar explained in detail the history and reasons the program exists. He said the Department has not had a local board since COVID. He explained the local trustees consist of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, another Commissioner, Fire Chief, Board Secretary and a firefighter. Chairman Lamar said some items discussed by this board would not be for public knowledge such as a firefighters medical issues or social security numbers. He added the Board of Volunteer Firefighters Trustee Program is governed by the State RCWs.
- Rivercom-Chairman Lamar said run cards will be repaired and accurate within the next few months. Rivercom is initiating an Artificial Intelligence phone base program to prioritize incoming calls. The program will be bilingual. Rivercom is struggling with the County Auditor for the collection of the newly passed county-wide sales tax. The tax revenue will go toward the remodeling of a new Rivercom Center. Chairmal Lamar said the hope is Rivercom would be ready to move into their new building by July, 2027. He said local user districts of Rivercom supported the sale tax due to the promise that existing user fees that the districts currently pay would no longer be due to Rivercom. One of the Rivercom Board members said that was never the case, but after reviewing historical meeting minutes, it was realized the elimination of service fees would actually be phased out over time.

#### IX. New Business

- Authorization needed to obtain a departmental credit card in Steve Foley's name. The board authorized such.
- Resolution needed for surplusing of old radios-Acting Chief Foley asked the Board to pass a resolution enabling the Department to surplus 40 old BK radios the department no longer needs. The radios have not been used for 18-24 months. Foley added he would like to donate the radios to a trade school down valley to practice with. Based on a motion by Chairman Lamar, seconded by Gibbs, Resolution 2026-02 was approved to surplus the radios. Chairman Lamar read Resolution 2026-02 aloud.

- Acting Chief Foley provided the Board with a summary of where the Department stores our fleet during the winter months including building, garages, under sheds, storage containers and snow laden parking lots. He provided the Board with a report of all fleet vehicles including age and mileage. Foley added he met with station officers and Commissioner Gibbs to discuss future fleet wants and needs of the department over the next 3-5-10 years.
- Wildland Risk Reduction Coordinator Kris King provided a comprehensive overview of upcoming wildland mitigation and risk reduction projects in the Wildland Urban Interface. She spoke about the upcoming re-opening of Camp 12 Road as an evacuation route, work to be done in the South Shore area. Much of the work will be done by LWFR's 6-person summer crew that is grant funded. King asked the Commissioners if LWFR can hold a road use permit which is needed. Chairman Lamar said LWFR could hold the road use permit. Commissioner Payne asked about the cost to maintain Camp 12 Road in the future. King was not sure. Chairman Lamar opined the costs should be minor and added it was a valid question. King added the County will be heading a project involving fire break work on Fish Pond Lane.
- Transition discussions-Chairman Lamar said there is a Special Commissioner Meeting scheduled for March 24th to swear-in Steve Foley as the new Fire Chief.

X. Announcements - None

XI. Executive Session -Contract review for candidate qualifications and a contract review. The audience exited the room. The Executive Session started at 11:07AM and concluded at 11:22AM.

Regular session resumed.

- A motion by Gibbs, seconded by Payne to hire Kraig Peiguss to become Assistant Chief Motion approved. The position is effective March 25, 2026.
- A motion by Payne, seconded by Gibbs for the Board Chair and Acting Fire Chief to negotiate a contract with Metis to improve processes. Motion passed with Chairman Lamar abstaining.

Concluded regular session at 11:27AM.




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Attested by:

