

**CLE ELUM PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

JULY 23, 2025

3:00 PM

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis - present
Ken Ratliff - present
Beth Williams - present

Matthew Lundh - present
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Rich Albo - Police Chief
Ed Mills - Fire Chief

2. Unfinished Business

a. Cle Elum Municipal Code Chapter 2.15 Fire Department

The committee has made some progress on Municipal Code chapter 2.15 Fire Department to reflect the Fire Departments By-laws. The by-laws were last updated in 2019. Chief Mills will do a poll to schedule a study session as this would be more effective. The committee would like to see everyone come to the meeting with suggestions.

b. Cle Elum Flammable Vegetation

This suggested code addition was brought to the attention of Chief Mills from the Fire Advisory Committee. It speaks to common hazards that are in the area. A flammable vegetation municipal code would help with compliance. The first page of this would be code language and the second page would be more informational. The committee will send this to legal and ask for guidance on the enforcement portion that describes the violation penalty amount and how the appeal process would work. Also, make sure the language is consistent throughout the code. After legal review, this will be brought to the council for consideration.

3. New Business

a. Public Safety & Health Meeting Minutes Dated June 18, 2025

**MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Public Safety & Health Meeting minutes dated June 18, 2025; seconded by Councilmember Williams.
MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.**

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- b. Public Safety & Health Meeting Minutes Dated June 20, 2025

**MOTION: Councilmember Ratliff made a motion to approve the Public Safety & Health Meeting minutes dated June 20, 2025; seconded by Councilmember Williams.
MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.**

- c. Unmarked Police Vehicles Discussion - Rich Albo, Police Chief

Chief Albo explained that previously he had unmarked police vehicles added to the municipal code so it would be legal for the Police Department to use them. The intent is to keep marked police cars for daily use primarily by chiefs and sergeants.

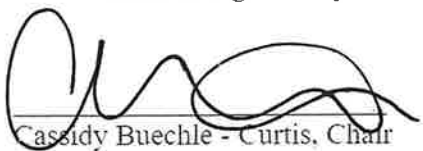
Sergeant Venera wanted to inform the committee of some benefits and insight into the use of unmarked vehicles.

- Designed for an admin role with a police light package, people yielding to traffic is not an issue. The police car has good visibility from the front, not as good from the side and rear of the vehicles as far as police lighting.
- You have better access to hide/blend in for pursuits as it does not have graphics. It has enabled the department to not chase subjects but apprehend them in previous experiences.
- You can park a block or two away from the incident and not be so obvious.
- Benefits more at night. There is more of a tactile flexibility. Unmarked vehicles are not a daily vehicle that would be used for routine stops.
- Visibility is better as the windows are not tinted.
- It is more common for supervisors to use unmarked vehicles.
- From a safety standpoint, the vehicle still needs better performance tires. Decals and tires are about the same amount of money. Being diligent about money, the department would prefer safer tires.
- Supervisors carry a significant amount of equipment and the unmarked vehicles are more readily accessible, and these vehicles usually have more room.
- There are a lot of positives to the department and community, and it's not as costly to outfit unmarked vehicles.

4. Other Committee Comments

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.



Cassidy Buechle - Curtis, Chair

Debbie Lee, Clerk