

CLE ELUM PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

OCTOBER 15, 2025

12:30 PM

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present:

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis
Ken Ratliff
Beth Williams

Staff Present:

Debbie Lee - Clerk
Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director
Ed Mills - Fire Chief
Rich Albo - Police Chief

2. Unfinished Business

a. Municipal Code - Addressing (fire/police)

The committee is currently waiting for legal to review the suggested changes, and the item remains in the queue. Rob Omans, City Administrator, reported that the city attorney is handling a number of items at the moment. The committee discussed whether to request that this item be moved up to priority or to continue waiting. The current draft was previously sent to Blue Fern without edits, and they indicated they were fine with the information as provided. Mathew Bailey, Public Works Director, noted that the Bullfrog Flats project was vested prior to the code change, and at this time, he does not believe there is any urgency requiring the draft to be finalized immediately.

Committee Member Williams pointed out a mapping issue in a paragraph describing directions—specifically that the references to north/south and east/west appear to be reversed. An email will be sent to Rob Omans, City Administrator, and Committee Member Buechle Curtis to review and confirm this before legal proceeds with their portion of the review. Additionally, it was noted that the Pennsylvania and Railroad directions appear to be reversed in the draft. The committee would like to confirm this and will circulate that section by email, so all members can review. A potential change to the draft will be sent to city legal based on this review.

3. New Business

Public Safety & Health Committee Agenda

October 15, 2025

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

- a. September 17, 2025, Public Safety & Health Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Committee Member Ratliff made a motion to approve September 17, 2025, Public Safety & Health Minutes; seconded by Committee Member Williams.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

4. Other Committee Comments

Chief Albo briefly addressed the topic of body cameras during last night's council meeting. He was under the impression that the lease for the body cameras and associated computers was set to expire in April and that the agreement included a \$1 buyout at the end of the term. This is not the case, however, he does not have a detailed list of the equipment covered; the items are listed broadly. The lease involves three separate companies, which adds to the complexity. Chief Albo plans to speak with Robin Newcomb, Finance Director, to clarify the terms and details of the lease. Chief Albo also shared this issue during a meeting with other chiefs earlier this morning. In two weeks, he will attend a meeting with the Department of Justice (DOJ) Eastern District and plans to inquire about potential federal funding opportunities. Additionally, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WSPAC) has a one-time emergency grant that may be worth pursuing. Chief Albo is also working on compliance requirements for a House bill, which has become a high priority due to the number of elements that must be addressed.

Committee member Buechle-Curtis mentioned it would be helpful for the committee to understand what specific support Chief Albo might need from them. Chief Albo clarified that the current matters with the House bill involve policy updates rather than changes to the city code.

Committee Member Williams noted that there was a misunderstanding about the city's interest in acquiring AEDs (automated external defibrillators). Dan Mobach had believed the city was not pursuing them, but Committee Member Williams clarified that this was not the case. Rotary is interested in helping sponsor the purchase of AEDs, and Dan Mobach will reach out to Mark Kirkpatrick to arrange a presentation to the Rotary Club. Regarding Pulse Point, Chief Mills explained that the program was previously funded through Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue (KVFR), but local fire chiefs have expressed they no longer want to bear that cost. Chief Mills raised whether a grant could fund Pulse Point moving forward. The annual cost is estimated to be \$8,000. Previously, the cost was shared between the hospital and KVFR.

Chief Mills also noted that he is continuing work on updating the municipal codes related to fire services. He would like to begin focusing on safety and health regulations, as well as the open fire permit process. Completing this work would benefit the city and help modernize outdated procedures.

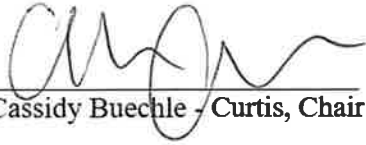
For the next meeting, the committee plans to review all outstanding tasks and set priorities to help develop realistic timelines for completion. Committee Member Buechle-Curtis will email the group asking members to respond before the next meeting so that the agenda can be organized accordingly.

**Public Safety & Health Committee Agenda
October 15, 2025**

119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922

5. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.


Cassidy Buechle - Curtis, Chair


Debbie Lee, Clerk