

**CLE ELUM PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 12, 2026**

**9:00 AM**

**119 W FIRST STREET  
CLE ELUM, WA 98922**

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Committee Members Present:**

Cassidy Buechle-Curtis

Beth Williams

Steven Harper

**Staff Present:**

Matthew Lundh - Mayor

Debbie Lee - Clerk

Mathew Bailey - Public Works Director

Ed Mills - Fire Chief

Rich Albo - Police Chief

Jackie Van Dongen - Code Enforcement

**2. Unfinished Business**

a. Municipal Code — Addressing (Fire/Police)

Committee Member Buechle-Curtis gave an update that the attorney is currently reviewing the address code.

b. Cle Elum Municipal Code — Chapter 2.15 — Fire Department

The attorney is currently reviewing Section 2.15.

c. E-Bike — Discussion

The legislative session is nearing its conclusion, and there may be recent developments concerning e-bike legislation. Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.

d. Title 6 — Animals

Jackie Van Dongen, Code Enforcement, provided several suggestions using the City of Sumner Code as a reference for updating the Cle Elum municipal code. It was noted that the Sumner Code appears more comprehensive than the City of Cle Elum code, while Mukilteo's code also serves as a good example of animal regulations.

Key additions to the code were identified, including references to the Revised Code of

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Washington (RCW) pertaining to tethering, confinement, and animal forfeiture.

The licensing fees in Cle Elum were deemed reasonable, with recommendations to streamline the process for accessibility.

Other proposed updates include adding ferrets to the list of licensed animals alongside cats and dogs and addressing the absence of language regarding animal waste on both private and public properties.

There was a suggestion to incorporate Mukilteo's code, along with discussion points, for presentation to the committee in the next meeting.

The committee discussed the uniform pricing for neutered and unneutered dogs and emphasized the importance of ensuring licensing fees cover associated costs. An online registration system for dog licenses was proposed, along with a potential city booth at local events to promote licensing. Current pricing is established at \$15 for the first dog, with \$5 for each additional dog.

The code presently includes an impound fee, and the possibility of a gradual increase after multiple impounds was discussed, alongside the current shelter fee, which is leading to a budget deficit.

e. Graffiti

An update was provided regarding the proposed graffiti code, which is currently under review by legal counsel, and is subject to some modifications.

The enforcement on private property is receiving closer examination, taking into consideration practices from other cities that have pursued lawsuits to facilitate abatement. An additional recommendation was made to establish a request process for appeals, similar to the procedure utilized by the Public Works Committee, which would subsequently present these matters to the council.

It was suggested that a monetary fee be imposed for graffiti, with additional daily fines accruing for each day the issue remains unaddressed. A defined timeline for the resolution of such issues was deemed necessary. A constructive discussion was held regarding the challenges faced, and it was agreed that the attorney's suggestions would be distributed to the committee prior to the next meeting, with Committee Member Buechle - Curtis tasked to provide a summary.

### 3. New Business

a. Cle Elum Public Safety & Health — Meeting Minutes — February 18, 2026

**MOTION: Committee Member Harper made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated February 18, 2026; seconded by Committee Member Williams.**

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**MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.**

**4. Other Committee Comments**

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

  
Cassidy Buechle - Curtis, Chair

  
Debbie Lee, Clerk