



Bill Dickinson

Candidate for Fire District 7 Commissioner 2

BIOGRAPHY

I have been fortunate to have a long and successful public safety career. I started out as a volunteer firefighter right out of high school and continued into my college years where I met Betty Groeschell, a Cle Elum native. We married and moved to her home town of Cle Elum over 46 years ago and built our home on family farm land on Peoh Point where her family homesteaded over one hundred years ago.

My employment resulted in commuting to the West side where I enjoyed an incredibly successful career managing public safety agencies at the City, County and State levels. 24 of those years were spent as a police chief with ancillary duties as an assistant city manager, emergency manager and deputy coroner for West side cities.

In addition to my college education, I am a graduate of the FBI National Academy (University of Virginia), the FBI Executive Leadership School, Northwest Command College, Secret Service Dignitary Protection School, the Boeing Company's Management for World Class Excellence course, and numerous FEMA emergency management courses.

CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Now retired, I seek to continue my public service as a volunteer where I can offer my experience in delivering emergency services. In searching for that volunteer opportunity six years ago, I found Fire District #7 had lost a large number of volunteers, our

insurance ratings were declining, and the then-management team had incurred a federal grant to hire 9 firefighters with no funding with which to maintain their salaries when the grant ended. County Auditor Jerry Pettit at that time advised me that Fire District 7 would soon be insolvent, lose our paid firefighters and we would owe penalties to the federal grant provider.

I led the board into a reset of the District 7 management to include contracting with KVFR for the services of their professional fire chief (Sinclair). Since then, the Department has completely turned around financially with only a minor tax increase, has built a large body of volunteer firefighters who support 17 full time career firefighters, has replaced 3 old tenders and 4 brushfire trucks over the last two years, are scheduled to purchase a new fire engine soon and by year's end will have two fully staffed fire stations serving both ends of the district.

My fellow commissioners have honored my efforts by electing me to the position of Board Chair for the last 5 years of my first term. I stand on my record of firm management oversight of the Fire District which during my term has gone from a struggling volunteer fire department to one which provides assured response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. None of the other 7 fire departments in the upper county provide that level of service.

After multiple efforts to regionalize with the other upper county fire departments, the current Board of Commissioners are investigating the notion of merging with Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue with a gradual contracting concept which we hope will inspire other departments to join us in the future. The reasons are several. Better response times, cost effectiveness, and less redundancy in equipment, management, facilities, training, recruiting, etc. My extensive experience, training and management leadership has facilitated Fire District 7's growth during these years of community growth. Not only am I long time community member, I am also an active volunteer firefighter.

CAMPAIGN CONTACT

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