



News Release
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The Cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley to Hold Special Joint Meeting on Consolidation of Emergency Services

BLAINE COUNTY, Idaho – Ketchum and Sun Valley city councils will hold a second joint meeting on the cities' potential partnership in the delivery of public safety services.

The joint meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 25, at 4:30 p.m. and will take place at the Limelight Hotel, 151 Main Street S., Ketchum. Walt Femling, director of public safety for the city of Sun Valley, will lead a presentation on the partnership. Public comment will be taken at the meeting or may be emailed to participate@ketchumidaho.org.

The purpose of exploring the consolidation of emergency services within the northern Wood River Valley is to enhance the safety and welfare of residents, visitors and business owners. As the valley continues to grow and host larger events, the need for improved coordination and coverage in the northern cities becomes more evident. If police and fire services are combined, economic efficiencies may also be realized.

"The cities undertook the consolidation study with an open mind, a dedication to civility, respect and celerity. It has become clear that the priorities and goals of Sun Valley and Ketchum are well aligned," said Mayor Peter Hendricks.

The potential creation of a combined public safety structure should result in improved command and control for both routine and non-routine police and fire events. A larger, unified department would also provide members with greater opportunities for professional growth and development. These elements, among others, are the focus of the study and presentation by Femling.

"Public safety is our highest priority," said Mayor Neil Bradshaw. "The consolidation effort gives us a chance to collaborate with the city of Sun Valley and provide our communities with the best in essential emergency services necessary to protect our residents and visitors," he added.

The first joint meeting between the two city councils was held on Sep. 18, 2018. Following the second meeting on Feb. 25, the Ketchum and Sun Valley city councils will vote on the consolidation at their regular meetings. The city of Ketchum's meeting will be held on Monday, Mar. 4, at 4 p.m. The city of Sun Valley's meeting will be held on Thursday, Mar. 7, at 4 p.m.