Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue
Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Minutes
911 N 65th Avenue, Ridgefield

January 23, 2025

Present:
Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke.
Chief John Nohr. DVCs Mike Jackson, Ben Peeler, and Eamonn Ryan. Recording Secretary Kathy Streissguth.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Chunn at 4:01 p.m.

Flag Salute.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS
None.

CONSENT AGENDA
None. Chief Nohr advised that Kathy Streissguth has been out sick all week, which resulted in a lack of financial information and the consent agenda. Working to train other accounting staff as backup for presentation of financial information.

COMMUNICATIONS
Thank you from Neighbors Helping Neighbors to the Clark County Fire & Rescue Volunteer Firefighters Association for their $750 donation in December 2024 and to the many members who provided gifts to children for the giving tree.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
Commissioner Bartel reported the group met on January 15. Discussions on new report formatting. Incident mitigation plans. The FD6 issue has been closed; no financial impacts. Chief Nohr advised the insurance company was concerned about the freeway fatality incident last year. CCFR was deemed to have very little liability following an extensive investigation by the insurance company.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
No report.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
No report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
Next meeting on January 25.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
No report.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke
Optional meeting dates distributed. To be scheduled.

EMS District 2 – Bourke
Chief Nohr advised the district had a brief meeting on January 13. Considering adding another representative from one of the small cities and possibly a fire commissioner. Discussed the transport RFP. No action taken.

Port of Ridgefield
Commissioner Bartel summarized information presented at the January 8 port meeting.

Port of Woodland
Commissioner Town advised he was not able to access the Zoom meeting on January 2. Shared that he heard that the port received a grant to study use of the old fire station in Woodland.

Commissioner Updates
None.

STAFF REPORTS

Operations/Training – AC Ryan
AC Ryan summarized the 2024 fourth quarter/year end Operations and Training report. Will be meeting with the City to address potential traffic issues on the grand opening of new restaurants in Ridgefield. Attended the City of La Center council meeting on January 22. Noted their financial position has improved with the strong city council. Shared information on upcoming officer development and other training. Transitioning to more internal training. Commissioner Bartel asked for definition of the 600 series incident. AC Ryan will advise.

Community Risk Reduction/CARES – AC Jackson
AC Jackson out ill. Chief Nohr summarized the extensive 2024 fourth quarter/year end CRR/CARES report provided.

Admin/Logistics – AC Peeler
AC Peeler in California on an EMAC deployment in San Diego. Chief Nohr summarized the 2024 fourth quarter/year end Administrative Services and Logistics report provided.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Nohr summarized the December 2024 Chief's report. Reported that the 2024 call volume increased about 7.1% over 2023. Ridgefield is now the busiest station with La Center coming in second. Discussed ambulance transport in CCFR and countywide. CCFR transported 54 patients through January 15. Aetta Architects are working on preliminary design for Station 29. Will work on Station 24 once the property location is identified. Will have a bonding presentation from DA Davidson at the February 13. Chief Nohr is anticipating a need for $20 million, which will initially be non-voted debt to be paid from the general fund. Advised we will be tracking the diverted tax amounts. Commissioner Bartel asked if the information may be tracked by parcel. Chief Nohr will ask Kathy Streissguth to pose the question to her contact at the Assessor's office. Discussed the firefighter testing and hiring process. The chiefs will be interviewing 19 candidates next week.

Met on January 22 with the consulting firm working with the City of La Center on their comprehensive plan. Discussed CCFR prevention and operational needs. Follow-up meeting to be scheduled to answer additional questions and TIF. The city doesn't appear to be considering TIF at this time; the comp plan consultant indicated he was unfamiliar with it. Met with the Ridgefield City Manager on impact fees and station site locations. Discussed the Hillhurst property next to the RORC; CCFR preference is to hold ownership of the site until another location is locked up. Still investigating site options. Will be presenting CCFR's response needs to the Ridgefield council in February. Several factors involved in choosing an optimal site. Complicated by unknown future road development. Want to ensure we are making the right decision. Commissioner Bartel commented a decision needs to be made. Commissioner Bourke suggested a target date. Contract for the Standard of Cover consultant has been reviewed by legal counsel. Received this week – to be signed and forwarded to the vendor. Commissioner Town asked about the wildland preparedness presentation mentioned in the CRR report. Is this something we should be promoting. Chief Nohr will follow up. Discussed the response report for the ambulance. Noted they are out of service until they return to the district. Crews will be at Rosauers on Saturday, January 25 for a Fill the Boot fundraiser in preparation for the annual stair climb event in Seattle.

TAX INCREMENT AREAS – UPDATE
General updates provided in the Chief's report. Communicated with one of the chief officers from Central Pierce Fire & Rescue. He shared copies of informational handouts for CCFR to modify for WFCA Legislative Day. AC Jackson may attend the WFCA Legislative Day in Chief Nohr's absence – prescheduled vacation. Coordinating with FD6 Chief Maurer on the meeting schedule. Commissioner Bartel advised he will be presenting TIF information at the next WFCA Board meeting. Commissioner Town advised he spoke with Representative Cortez on TIF issues.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
Chief Nohr advised that AC Jackson will be attending a future FD3 Board meeting for a CARES program presentation.

Commissioner Chunn asked if the Woodland Station 29 build out will include space for the old Pirsch engine similar to what was originally proposed for Ridgefield Station 24. Chief Nohr advised that will be considered.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief