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

March 13, 2025

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Chunn at 4:00 p.m.

Flag Salute.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS
None.

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Commissioner Bartel to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Second Commissioner Town. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS
Email of thanks from Ridgefield High School Health Science instructor for the district's participation in Career Day.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
No report.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
Commissioner Chunn recapped the March 12 meeting. Settling the space allocation following the Fire Marshal's office move. Planning to install a door in the resident hallway to minimize the noise of those using the hallway to the bay. Will need to update the operation plan with Clark 6 and the space allocation agreement with the County.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
No report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
No report.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
No report.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke
Scheduled to meet on March 21.

EMS District 2 – Bourke
Commissioner Bourke summarized the March 10 meeting. Continue to work on the bylaws. The group is having difficulty getting a quorum. Advised that former MPD Lynn Witter sent a letter to EMS D2 about the proposed changes to the board – no information on his position. They discussed creation of an administrative board. Chief Nohr shared the workgroup is reviewing the City of Vancouver contract and whether to piggyback or go out to bid. The current contract is good through December 31, 2025. January 1, 2026 effective dates for EMS ordinances, system design, and service contract rate changes for public transport agencies must be submitted to Olympia no later than November 1. There is about $375,400 in the fine fund. The next meeting is on March 14.

Port of Ridgefield
Commissioner Bartel summarized information presented at the March 12 Port meeting. Port Director Randy Meuller has resigned.

Port of Woodland
Commissioner Town shared the Port will old two public briefing on March 25 from 2-4pm and March 27 from 5-7pm. Summarized discussion at the March 6 meeting. Commissioner Chunn added that staff have made several attempts to schedule a joint meeting between the CCFR and Port Boards of Commissioners. They have refused. Commissioner Town added that the Port website reads that they will mitigate with impacted taxing districts.

Commissioner Updates
Commissioner Ayers requested that the meeting room US flag be replaced. Commissioner Town advised he attended the Chief's presentation to the City of La Center council; well done.

CHIEF'S UPDATE
Chief Nohr met with Ridgefield City Manager Steve Stuart. He requested the Chief's District update presentation for the March 27 meeting. The Ridgefield State of City address will be held on March 18.

Part-time fire inspector John Zanzi is retiring in March. Following an internal listing for a full-time Deputy Fire Marshal, one firefighter has expressed interest and will transition to the new position. The new firefighters will be sworn in on the first day with an official badge pinning ceremony at the completion of the academy.

Reviewed/discussed the Aetta Architects preliminary design for Station 29. Chief Nohr advised he continues to discuss land swap options with Ridgefield City Manager Stuart – the Hillhurst property for purchase of another location.

Update on ambulance transport activity. Year to date CCFR response time is 15:48 90% of the time, while AMR was at 22:56 as reported in the 3rd quarter of 2023. AC Peeler is developing zone response time data for the station areas.

AC Ryan and FF Pera are traveling to Indiana to inspect the two ambulances procured for us by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Foundation. The fourth ambulance is still in the queue. At

the request of the CIT, a blessing ceremony will be scheduled prior to placing the new ambulances in service.

TAX INCREMENT AREAS – UPDATE
Discussed the impact of the Port of Woodland plan on CCFR. They are looking at 5,200 acres in the bottoms area; the majority of which is in Cowlitz 1. CCFR would be responsible for protection should the City of Woodland annex any of the property. There would potentially be no revenue for many years.

Chief Nohr is putting together a tax increment financing presentation. Will invite other impacted agencies to participate or attend. Discussion. Presentation scheduled for Monday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. Will announce and notify all partners.

Upcoming meetings with TIF discussions:

March 17 7:00 p.m. Woodland City Council
March 19 2:30 p.m. Cowlitz County Commissioners
March 20 9:00 a.m. Port of Woodland
April 17 9:00 a.m. Port of Woodland (may vote to adopt TIF)

POLICY 1013 CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR
Draft policy updated to include truthfulness and honesty. Discussion. Will present for adoption at the March 27 meeting.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – LATERAL HIRES
Draft reviewed at the February 27 meeting. MOU will sunset on December 31, 2025. One lateral hire in the current group is affected by the MOU. Motion by Commissioner Bartel to adopt the memorandum of understanding with Local 3674 regarding lateral firefighter hiring incentives. Second Commissioner Ayers. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM
Commissioner Town proposed hiring a public relations firm to help the district get information out to the public. Doing a good job getting out the information on all the positive changes but need more. Discussion. Chief Nohr will investigate options for a company or position. Will check with peers on what they are doing and report back in April. Looking to focus on promoting improvements in service and focus on PR – the daily PIO process works as is.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
Scheduling a training burn in the next month (house on Pioneer Street in Ridgefield). May invite public official partners to observe.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
New Ridgefield Mayor Matt Cole introduced himself to the Board. Expressed interest in helping the district identify property for a new Ridgefield station. Discussed the city's infrastructure projects. Stated a commitment to be a good partner and shared his door is always open.

CCFR Fire Cadet Preston Walker expressed his thanks for the program. Noted his mother is on the Ridgefield City Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief

Clark-Cowlitz
FIRE RESCUE

CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
CONSENT AGENDA
March 13, 2025

1. Minutes
   - Board Meeting – February 27
2. Prepaid Invoices
   - $ 120,069.49 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 50,417.21 Chk Nos. 102752 – 102803 dated February 13
     ii. $ 2,463.14 EFT 328 paid February 13
     iii. $ 40,738.30 EFT 329 paid February 13
     iv. $ 4,473.33 EFT 330 paid February 13
     v. $ 21,977.51 ACH 383 – 384 paid February 14
   - $ 1,971.19 (FFFB Fund 6254)
     i. EFT 327 paid February 13
   - $ 20,818.90 (Capital Fund 6224)
     i. ACH No. 326 paid February 14
   - $ 6,983.61 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. ACH Nos. 469 – 471 paid March 6
3. Current Invoices
   - $ 2,533.33 (FFFB Fund 6254)
     i. US Bank VISA EFT 606 paid March 13$
   - $ 154,340.60 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 2,463.14 EFT 607 paid March 13 (Ricoh USA)
     ii. $ 40,833.71 EFT 608 paid March 13 (US Bank VISA)
     iii. $ 1,006.38 EFT 609 paid March 13 (Wilcox & Flegel)
     iv. $ 53,301.48 Chk Nos. 102825 – 102862 dated March 13
     v. $ 56,735.89 ACH 648 – 657 to be paid March 14
4. Fund Transfers
   - None
5. Payroll
   - February Life & Disability Benefits
     i. $ 8,414.68 EFT 430 paid February 28
   - February 1 – 28 Payroll paid March 7
     i. $1,201,380.77 Gross Payroll
     ii. $ 789,578.11 Net Payroll ACH 472 – 572
     iii. $ 154,067.10 941 Tax Deposit EFT 573 paid March 7
   - February Payroll Benefits
     i. $ 440,402.38 Chk Nos. 22585 – 22594 dated March 7
     ii. $ 93,127.01 EFT No. 580 paid March 7
6. February Use Tax paid March 13
   - CCFR $ 303.51 EFT

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7. Approved Commissioner Stipends

Month of February paid March 7						
Name	Board Meeting	Committee Meeting	Assn Meeting	Educ	Other	Total Paid
Ayers	1					1
Bartel	1	2	1			4
Bourke	1	1				2
Chunn	1					1
Town	1	2				3

8. CCFR Fund 6228 Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants
   - $200.00 Chk No. 102738
   - $ 4.00 Chk No. 102767
   - $ 4.00 Chk No. 102785
9. FFFB Fund 6254 Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants
   - None

Commissioner Stanley Chunn – Chair

Commissioner David Town – Vice Chair

Commissioner Larry Bartel

Commissioner Ken Ayers

Commissioner Jade Bourke