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

April 24, 2025

Present:
Commissioners Stan Chunn, David Town, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke, Ken Ayers.
Chief John Nohr. ACs Eamonn Ryan, Mike Jackson.

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 Bourke to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Second by Commissioner Town. Question about Kindness 911 organization. Chief Nohr explained community connections and fundraising by Kindness 911 and assisting CCFR with recognizing community members. Commissioner Town asked about the large difference in cost for roof permits for Station 23 (La Center) and Station 21 (Ridgefield). Chief Nohr explained that it is the fee that each city chooses to charge for obtaining permits within the city. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS
Chief Nohr read a letter from a Clark County Risk Management employee thanking DFM Mike Lackey for his compassionate assistance at the scene where a dog jumped from a moving vehicle and his assistance to the Animal Control Officer. Chief Nohr shared a story from The Reflector about a Community Risk Reduction safety presentation at the Woodland Senior Center. Chief Nohr read a resignation letter from Support Volunteer Ethan Oldham where he thanked CCFR for the opportunity to serve the residents of the District.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
No report.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
No report.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
No report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
Commissioner Bartel with a reminder of the Region Meeting on May 5th at 7 PM at CCFR Station 21.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
No report.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke
No report.

EMS District 2 – Bourke
Bourke reported that the EMS 2 board met on April 14 where EMS 2 approved a contract with AMR piggybacking on the RFP used by the City of Vancouver to choose AMR. Still working on by-law updates to EMS 2 board that will add another small city representative and a Fire Commissioner representative. Next meeting scheduled for May 12 at 1 PM. Chief Nohr noted the EMS 2 workgroup will begin meeting bi-weekly and ahead of the EMS 2 board meetings.

Port of Ridgefield
Met on 23 where Commissioner Bartel provided the Port with an update on the CCFR CARES Team and the new recruits in training. Citizens asked Commissioner Bartel about how TIF affects others.

Port of Woodland
Commissioner Town reported on the meeting on April 17 where multiple people testified against TIF including Cowlitz County commissioners, Cowlitz FD 1 commissioner and fire chief, Chief Nohr, and many citizens. There was a motion to approve the Port's Resolution 546. After discussion the motion failed. Discussion about whether Commissioner Town should still attend PoW meetings. Commissioner Bourke will attend the PoW meetings remotely and provide updates. Commissioner Chunn directed that the Port of Woodland Liaison position be terminated and will be removed from future agendas.

Commissioner Updates
Commissioner Ayers thanked staff for placing a new US flag in the classroom.

CHIEF'S REPORTS – FIRST QUARTER

Admin/Logistics – AC Peeler
Chief Nohr provided a recap of AC Peeler's written Administrative Services Division report.

Operations/Training – AC Ryan
AC Ryan provided a recap of the written Operations Division and Training Program report. AC Ryan confirmed that all firefighters are trained for wildland firefighting and approximately 25 will participate in deployments through the summer and fall.

Community Risk Reduction/CARES – AC Jackson
AC Jackson provided a recap of written Community Risk Reduction and the CARES Team reports. AC Jackson clarified that the senior living complex under construction on Pioneer Street will not include skilled nursing staff. Jackson provided an overview of the state funding to create an endorsement process for

community-based co-response. CCFR will likely be the first fire-based community program in the state. Jackson provided an example where the CARES team assisted with needs of bystanders who witnessed a person run over by a bulldozer.

Chief's Report – Nohr

Chief Nohr provided a recap of the written Chief's report. In addition, the first of two additional ambulances is in town and getting equipped. CIT will bless the ambulance before it goes into service. The next ambulance will likely arrive in late June or July. AMR is selling CCFR a surplus gurney system to replace the old-style gurney on M-29. Station 23 re-roof will need new gutters. The original gutters were custom made. Seeking bids for the same gutters as well as an off-the-shelf to possibly save money. Chief Nohr shared a schematic of the Station 29 pre-design. The drawings will be shared with crews for feedback on the design. Our insurance provider, Wilson-Heirgood & Associates, had a meeting with CCFR to help us look at ways to reduce our insurance costs. Jack Bothwell is retiring as the volunteer treasurer for the Clark County Firefighters Association; Jack's many years of service is greatly appreciated.

Chief Nohr asked the Commissioners to provide information on what they want a PR firm to do to assist with messaging. Please send Nohr an email. Nohr has identified a local PR firm to interview and get an idea on pricing and potential services.

Chief Nohr sent a letter of support to the Port of Woodland to help obtain a grant on improving three railroad crossings in the community.

CityGate has received response information to help create the Standard of Cover. Chief Nohr and the Assistant Chiefs are gathering other information for submission to CityGate. Once the Standard of Cover is done, we can move forward with strategic planning. Commissioner Chunn encouraged Chief Nohr and staff to get the planning process moving.

Commissioner Bartel commented on wanting the Ridgefield station to be started at the same time as the Woodland station. Still concerned about the impacts of tax increment financing on future revenues. Nohr suggested a possible workshop to more fully discuss how to move forward on station construction.

TAX INCREMENT AREAS – UPDATE

The TIF law has a proposed update to allow the City of Bellevue to have a $500M tax increment area. The Washington fire service is against this bill. However, an offer has been made to have a workgroup convened to review the law and provide feedback to legislators next year in hopes of amending the law to have less impact on other jurisdictions.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief