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

May 22, 2025

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

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

Flag Salute.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS
Chief Nohr requested an executive discussion to discuss collective bargaining.

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Commissioner Bartel to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Second by Commissioner Ayers. Discussion. Question on the payment of the two fire engines. Will need a budget amendment. Motion withdrawn. Motion amended and seconded to approve the consent agenda with the $1.9 million payment to Hughes Fire removed. Amended motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bourke arrived at 4:03 p.m.

Chief Nohr advised the engines had been ordered in late 2023 or early 2024 for delivery in 2026. Contacted by the vendor and advised there would be an $80,000 discount for prepayment. After reviewing available funds and interest rates, Chief Nohr and staff determined that it would be in the best interest of the district to take advantage of the discount. Payment had already been planned for 2026. The Board concurred.

Motion by Commissioner Bartel to amend the 2025 budget to include payment of $1.9 million for two fire engines. Second by Commissioner Town. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Bartel to authorize the payment of $1.9 million to Hughes Fire for the prepayment of two fire engines. Second by Commissioner Bourke. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS
None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
Commissioner Bartel met with WHA to discuss the insurance policy. They are not impressed with the policy provider. Working to return the group to VFIS for the

next policy period. Some participants in the pool are considering withdrawal. WHA advised they will review options with each participant so all may make an informed decision.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
Commissioner Bartel attended the May 14 meeting. Annual review of the operations agreement. Captain Kearns doing a great job as the station captain. Parking lot to be restriped. Fixing issues with the dispatch alerting system and overhead speaker wiring. Will installing another door in the fire hallway. Working with County Facilities to address the drainage issue on the west side of the building. The HVAC replacement project is complete.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
No report.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
Accident claim for one fire cadet was authorized.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
Commissioner Bartel summarized items discussed at the WFCA April Board meeting and the May SW Fire Commissioner's Association meeting.

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

EMS District 2 – Bourke
Commissioner Bourke shared information discussed at the EMS District 2 meeting. Update on the transport services contract. The district approved creation of an administrative advisory board consisting of 6 persons: the fire chief from each of the participating fire districts, the medical program director, a hospital administrator, and the CRESA Director. This provides for better input from the fire districts.

Port of Ridgefield
No report.

Commissioner Updates
Commissioners Bartel and Town attend the Junction Association meeting where they provided information about CARES, the new ambulance, and tax increment financing. Commissioner Town reiterated that CARES is funded by various service contracts; not district funds.

CHIEF'S REPORT
Chief Nohr advised the firefighter recruit graduation will be held on June 26, 7:00 p.m. at Southridge Elementary School. Will also recognize two captain promotions. Met with La Center Mayor Tom Strobehn to discuss impact fees. The city is receptive to the idea. Meeting with Ridgefield City Manager Steve Stuart next week. Fees are already assessed in the City of Woodland. Station inspections are in progress – looking good. Met with Point North regarding strategic communications and public relations. They are interested in providing a communication plan for the district. Will schedule a presentation. Discussion. Workshop scheduled June 12 at 3:00 p.m.

AC Peeler provided updates on the St21 and St23 roofing projects. Reviewing bids. Eight received. Assessment of the lowest responsive bidder. Likely to award tomorrow. Low bid was about $219,000. Bids ranged up to $530,000. Budget was around $420,000. Discussion. Update on the progress for remodeling St29. Commissioner Bartel asked if Ridgefield and Woodland will be done at the same time. He does not support moving forward with Woodland when we promised a station to Ridgefield. They should be done at the same time for cost savings. AC Peeler commented there are commitments to both communities. Woodland is further ahead and more groundwork may be done in preparation of going to bid. We don't have property yet for Ridgefield. Once the Standard of Cover is complete, there will be a better idea of the best location for the planned Ridgefield station. Timing and availability of sites in Ridgefield is also an issue.

Chief Nohr shared an update on the Standard of Cover report. Discussed issues discovered with the original data provided. Resolved. Expecting information in about 4 weeks.

Commissioner Bartel reported that interim FD6 Chief Hebert has committed to staying through the end of the year.

TAX INCREMENT AREAS – UPDATE

Chief Nohr provided an update on possible legal challenges to TIF. Other impacted fire districts around the state are interested in participating in any action taken. Other fire district have expressed interest in getting more information. The proposal to allocate $50,000 to the Department of Commerce to moderate a TIF stakeholder group was cut by the Governor. Will be looking at alternatives to communicate the issues faced by impacted agencies.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Prompted by Chief Nohr, Finance Manager Kathy Streissguth confirmed she notified the Chief of her intent to retire on June 30, 2026.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following a 5-minute recess, the Board moved to executive session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining strategies. Anticipated length of session 20 minutes. No action anticipated. Meeting resumed and adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief

Clark-Cowlitz
FIRE RESCUE

CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
CONSENT AGENDA
May 22, 2025

1. Minutes
   - Board Meeting – April 24
   - Board Meeting – May 8 **CANCELLED**
2. Prepaid Invoices
   - $ 185.00 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. ACH No. 1006 paid May 1
   - $ 65,828.12 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 2,463.14 EFT 1152 paid May 7
     ii. $ 52,416.10 Chk Nos. 102956 – 102991, 102993 & 102994 dated May 8
     iii. $ 10,948.88 ACH 1205 – 1208 paid May 9
   - $ 684.70 (FFFB Fund 6254)
     i. $ 651.00 Chk No. 102955 dated May 8
     ii. $ 33.70 ACH No. 1204 paid May 9
   - $ 36,469.45 (US Bank VISA Statement ending May 6) paid May 13
     i. $ 34,807.07 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     ii. $ 1,662.38 (FFFB Fund 6254)
3. Current Invoices
   - $ 4,705.00 (Capital Fund 6224)
     i. ACH 1224 to be paid May 23
   - $ 2,072,572.28 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 104,756.47 Chk Nos. 102996 – 103025 dated May 22
     ii. $ 1,996,161.43 ACH 1256 – 1258 to be paid May 23
   - $ 1,858.21 (FFFB Fund 6254)
     i. Chk No. 102995 dated May 22
4. Fund Transfers
   - $ 1,027.58 FT Debt Levy Fund 6222 to Debt Service Fund 6220 May 01
   - $ 1,800,000.00 FT Equip Fund 6228-1 to Gen Fund 6228 May 23
   - $ 666.25 FFFB Fund 6254 St151 Land Lease to be paid June 2
   - $ 333.12 FT Gen Fund 6228 to FFFB Fund 6254 (Land Lease June 2)
   - $ 272,603.42 FT Gen Fund 6228 to Debt Service Fund 6220 June 2
5. Debt Service
   - $ 95,950.00 202Feb05 LTGO due June 2
   - $ 90,370.00 2021Jan28 LTGO due June 2
   - $ 87,311.00 2021Dec14 LTGO due June 2
6. Payroll
   - April Disability & Life Insurance Benefits
     i. $ 8,796.68 EFT 1010 paid April 25
   - April 1 – 30 Payroll paid May 8
     i. $ 1,331,054.42 Gross Payroll
     ii. $ 874,923.89 Net Payroll ACH 1041 – 1102, 1104 – 1118, 1120 – 1148
     iii. $ 90.03 Net Payroll Chk Nos. 22609 – 22610
     iv. $ 180,190.63 941 Tax Deposit EFT 1149 paid May 8
   - April Payroll Benefits
     i. $ 463,450.69 Chk Nos. 22611 – 22620 dated May 7
     ii. $ 96,762.60 EFT 1192 paid May 7
7. April Use Tax paid May 8
   - CCFR $ 95.69 EFT 1203

Clark-Cowlitz
FIRE RESCUE

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8. Approved Commissioner Stipends

Month of April paid May 8						
Name	Board Meeting	Committee Meeting	Assn Meeting	Educ	Other	Total Paid
Ayers	2					2
Bartel	2	2	1			5
Bourke	2	2				4
Chunn	2					2
Town	2	2			1	5

9. CCFR Fund 6228 Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants
   - 102992 dated May 8 correct amount reissued May 22
10. 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

Clark County
FIRE & RESCUE

Form No. 511.10.03
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Created: June 11, 2008
Revised: May 11, 2011

Meeting Date

5/22/2025

Stated purpose of this executive session:

- ❍ To consider matters affecting national security.
- ❍ To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate.
- ❍ To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease.
- ❍ To review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts.
- ❍ To receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee.
- ❍ To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment.
- ❍ To review the performance of a public employee.
- ❍ To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.
- ❍ To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency (present or via telephone conference) matters relating to agency enforcement actions.
- ❍ To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency (present or via telephone conference) litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party.
- ⊗ To discuss collective bargaining negotiation strategies.

Meeting recessed at	**5:00**	Hrs
Anticipated length of session	**20**	Mins
Announcement of extended session		Hrs
Anticipated extended length of session		Mins
Meeting resumed at	**5:22**	Hrs

Action anticipated ❍ YES ☒ NO

Reference RCW Chapter 42.30