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

February 12, 2026

Present:
Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Larry Bartel, Ken Ayers.
Chief John Nohr, AC Ben Peeler.

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

Flag Salute.

Commissioner Jade Bourke joined virtually at 4:09 PM

Media represented by Normal Helgeson from The Reflector

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS
Commissioner Bartel added Board Roles and Responsibilities. Chief Nohr added an Executive Session to discuss the purchase price of property for a future fire station.

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Commissioner Bartel, second by Commissioner Ayers to approve consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS
None.

COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT
Ridgefield Council Member Katie Favella provided an update on regional and City activities. Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO) is doing a county-wide homelessness analysis. ECHO will be reaching out to providers to attend a panel discussion on April 14 from 0930-1130 at the Clark County PSC. Councilor Favela will be inviting CARES to be a part of the discussion. The City received a $1M grant to help establish a new well; the previous approval was for 150 gpm; City is seeking approval for 800 gpm. Eastside reservoir is out for construction bids. City received $1.2M last year for Pioneer Street stabilization project, but full cost is $4M; looking at phasing. Senator Murray helped get $2M for Royle Road improvements. Working on funding for 10th Street overpass at I-5. Commissioner Bartel asked about the City newspaper that went out; he would like the CCFR phone number to be put in the general business number area. The Ridgefield State of the City address is March 17 at RHS.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
Commissioner Bartel advised the group met and advised on upcoming changes. Group members are happy with service from VFIS. The group is known as a "large account" because the annual premium is over $400,000. Deductibles for 3rd party

claims are rising to $10,000; CCFR should budget accordingly. Auto claims are the most prevalent. WHA advised that some insurers are checking the private driving records of employees. Chief Nohr advised that CCFR looks at the driving records of all employees every two years. Chief Nohr advised that all of the large claims against the group have timed out and there are no pending large claims for the group. WHA is developing company officer training to help understand HR issues; King County Training Consortium has done some of this training; Clark County group to receive a copy of the training. Chief Nohr advised that the OSHA 300 log was posted per state guidelines.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
No report.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
No report.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
No report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
The Region meeting reviewed the healthcare program. Costs were 113% of premium income. There is a healthy reserve of $22M too help with this year. 138 large claims and 9 extremely large claims. Stop-Gap insurance expected to go up 50% next year. Life Scan use is going well. Building owned by the WFCA is fully rented. TIF bill has no opposition. DNR aerial bill with no opposition. EMS bill placed on hold until next year. New executive director with contract; Commissioner Bartel asked if chiefs have contracts. Chief Nohr advised that himself and Assistant Chiefs have similar contracts that were written by Attorney Brian Snure

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

EMS District 2 – Bourke
No meeting.

Port of Ridgefield
Chief Bartel reported that the Pioneer Street widening project came in very close to budget at approximately $22M.

Commissioner Updates
Commissioner Bartel noted he will be absent next meeting, but can attend virtually if necessary. Commissioner Town noted that he and Commissioner Chunn attended swear-in ceremony of new Chief David Russel and Assistant Chief Chris Barney at FD6.

CHIEF'S REPORT
Chief Nohr reported on upcoming retirement of FD6 Firefighter Bill Dunlap; Bill has 35 years at FD6 and is a fixture in the Clark County fire circles. Nohr noted that Firefighter Dan Howell resigned to take a job at VFD. CCFR will be advertising for FF/EMT and FF/Paramedic soon; four new positions plus current vacancies mean will likely hire seven new firefighters. Several significant injuries recently, leading to short term vacancies.

Nohr noted that 8 new babies were born to CCFR personnel in 2025 with more expected in 2026; this leads to use of FMLA and creates short term vacancies. Congratulations to all the new parents at CCFR. Commissioner Bartel asked about program FD6 uses to get people into treatment faster; Nohr advised that Chief Maurer mentioned last year that it wasn't producing the results expected; Nohr to reach out to the new chief to see if it has improved.

Three key administrative employees are retiring soon. Maureen Groat's last day will be February 26; Christi Linn will be retiring March 31, and Kathy Streissguth will retire on June 30. CCFR has conducted hiring processes for several positions; a new HR Manager and a new Finance/Payroll Tech will start later in February. New Finance Manager to start in March. Currently accepting applications for Administrative Assistant to work at the front desk and a Contract Compliance position. The new HR Manager has experience in setting up and running a Wellness Committee; she will be tasked with Wellness Committee as well as utilizing the new Life Scan exams offered by our health insurance carrier.

Brian Snure advised that placing policies on the District website public page is at the discretion of the District; most Districts just post them internally. AC Peeler noted that our Lexipol policies are copyrighted and we should not have them publicly available. Nohr mentioned an odd court claim request that was received by mail; it was forwarded to Snure for review, but he couldn't find any information on the case; it has now been forwarded to our insurance carrier for further research.

Commissioner Town advised that FD 6 recently hired an additional apparatus mechanic; commissioners would like to see if FD 6 can assist with CCFR apparatus maintenance. Chief Nohr to check with FD 6.

Chief Nohr advised on the planning process for an awards ceremony later this Spring; Kristine Greenwood is assisting with planning and fundraising.

Commissioner Bartel asked about a timeline for strategic planning. Nohr advised that he would like to have a process that includes community members, city councilors, Cowlitz Tribe representatives, and several CCFR employees from all divisions. This will help produce a comprehensive plan that meets the needs of the community as well as employees. Chief Nohr met with PointNorth to review a previous discussion on a community survey. Chief Nohr advised that it could likely be completed by September.

AC Peeler gave a brief update on how the boathouse will be repaired and why it must be towed to St. Helens for the work. It will take 4 weeks to repair. The cost may exceed the threshold for bids and will require an emergency authorization by the Board to bypass bid processes.

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Chief Nohr advised that CCFR conducted a search for an architect in 2021. State RCWs outline a process for obtaining professional services from architects and engineers. The previous resulted in Johanssen Wing being chosen (now Aetta). The agreement was for 3 years and the option for 3 additional years. The initial 3-year period has passed, and we are into the 3-year extension. CCFR has continued to use Aetta. Attorney Snure advised that the Board take action noting the 3-year extension. Motion by Bartel and seconded by Ayers to approve the 3-year extension for Aetta Architects as outlined in the 2021 RFQ. Motion passed unanimously.

REAL PROPERTY PURCHASE AND SALE
Chief Nohr noted that this issue will be discussed during the Executive Session.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
Commissioner Bartel brought up the issue of Board roles and responsibilities for clarification. Per Bartel, the chief runs the daily operation of the District. RCW 52 outlines board responsibilities, including hiring and firing of architects. Chief Nohr confirmed that the Board authorizes contracts with architects and other contracts. Chief Nohr feels that it is usually the responsibility of the Chief and staff members to do the background work of finding contractors, drawing up the contracts, and bringing them to the Board for approval. It was agreed that the Board can participate in the processes if they desire. Commissioner Bartel felt that his questions were answered in the discussion. Commissioner Town mentioned the

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Executive Session to consider the selection of a site or acquisition of real estate and consider the price at which real estate will be offered for sale.

Entered Executive Session at 5:02 PM. Anticipated 15 minutes to last until 5:17. Extension for 10 minutes announced at 5:17 to last until 5:27. Second extension for 5 minutes announced at 5:27 to last until 5:32.

Meeting back in session at 5:32 with no action taken

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief / District Secretary

Clark-Cowlitz
FIRE RESCUE

CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
CONSENT AGENDA
February 12, 2026

1. Minutes
   - Board Meeting – January 22
   - Special Meeting – February 3
2. Prepaid Invoices
   - $ 42,785.87 USBank VISA Stmt Ending January 6 paid January 13
     i. $ 41,342.50 EFT 194 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     ii. $ 1,443.37 EFT 195 (FFFB Fund 6254)
   - WA DOL Driver Record
     i. $ 30.00 EFT 158 paid January 15
   - $ 29,512.00 (Capital Fund 6224)
     i. ACH No. 254 paid January 26
   - $ 1,080.70 (FFFB Fund 6254)
     i. Chk No. 104465 dated January 26
   - $ 223,436.57 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 149,257.83 Chk Nos. 104434 – 104464 dated January 26
     ii. $ 74,178.74 ACH Nos. 248 – 252 paid January 28
   - $ 6,348.40 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. ACH 256 – 257 paid February 2
3. Current Invoices
   - $ 27,099.07 (FFFB Fund 6254)
     i. Chk Nos. 104519 – 104520 dated February 12
   - $ (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 145,452.30 Chk Nos. 104466 – 104518 dated February 12
     ii. $ 10,054.19 ACH 466 – 469 to be paid February 13
4. Approved Commissioner Stipends

Month of January paid February 6						
Name	Board Meeting	Committee Meeting	Assn Meeting	Educ	Other	Total Paid
Ayers	2					2
Bartel	2	2				4
Bourke	2	1				3
Chunn	2					2
Town	2					2

5. Payroll
   - January Payroll Benefits
     i. $ 9,715.51 ACH 258 paid January 29 (UNUM Disability & Life)
   - Q4-25 Payroll Taxes paid January 20
     i. $ 198,394.74 Chk Nos. 23060 – 23064 dated January 20
   - January 1 - 31 paid February 6
     i. $1,342,860.50 Gross Payroll
     ii. $ 895,762.36 (net) ACH 275 – 387
     iii. $ 69.26 (net) Chk No. 23065
     iv. $ 173,194.80 Tax Deposit EFT 388
   - January Payroll Benefits
     i. $ 475,429.26 Chk Nos. 233066 – 23075 dated February 5
     ii. $ 94,772.91 ACH 390 paid February 6

Clark-Cowlitz
FIRE RESCUE

CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
CONSENT AGENDA
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6. Use Tax
   - $ 522.62 CCFR January Use Tax paid February 5
7. Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants
   - 104392 Duplicate Payment – Charged to VISA
   - 104395 Duplicate Payment – Double Invoiced

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
2/12/26

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	5:02 pm	Hrs	
Anticipated length of session	15	Mins	
Announcement of extended session	5:17	Hrs	2ND. EXTENSION AT
Anticipated extended length of session	10	Mins	5:27 pm FOR 5 MINUTES
Meeting resumed at	5:32 pm	Hrs	

Action anticipated ● YES ○ NO

NO ACTION TAKEN

Reference RCW Chapter 42.30