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

March 12, 2026

Present:
Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Ken Ayers, and Jade Bourke.
Chief John Nohr, AC Ben Peeler, AC Mike Jackson, Finance Manager Brian Salsig, HR Manager Kristen Olson.

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 Ayers, second by Commissioner Town to approve consent agenda. Commissioner Bourke asked about cost for Standard of Cover. Question on the reason for the GASB-75 payment. Will follow up. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS
CCFR received a thank you note from staff of Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez for providing tour and information on the CARES Program.

Commissioner Chunn asked Chief Nohr to reach out to other Fire Districts for meetings.

COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT
Ridgefield Councilmember Katie Favela provided an update on a mental health awareness meeting on April 23. AC Jackson has been requested to speak at the meeting about the CARES program. State of the City address on March 17.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
No report.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
Met March 11. Station 151 total call count for 2025 was 1393 incidents. Reaffirmed that FD6 will provide the apparatus beginning January 1, 2027. New concrete polished floors, upgrade to fire alarm.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
No report.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
No report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
Commissioner Bartel reports that TIF bill has passed House and Senate. He requested that Chief Nohr seek a legal opinion on whether or not EMS levies are exempt from TIF.

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

EMS District 2 – Bourke
Commissioner Bourke reports that EMS met on March 9; Councilmember Franz from La Center and Commissioner Thornberry from FD3 have been added to the board, so now a 5-member board. Approved MPD contract and amendment to ILA for FD6 to oversee contract. Good historical presentation by Doug Smith-Lee from CRESA.

Port of Ridgefield
Commissioner Bartel made a presentation on history of CCFR. Chief Nohr reported on future CCFR activities. Chief Nohr received a communication from Port Executive Director Parry thanking CCFR for the presentation. Commissioner Bartel requested that CCFR be able to participate in a multi-agency meeting (Port/City School District) public update in April. The Port Commissioners approved CCFR to participate. The Port will be offering free shrubs on April 22 as part of Earth Day.

Commissioner Updates
No updates.

CHIEF'S REPORT
Chief Nohr reported that the new VFD Fire Chief will be assisting with the CCFR strategic planning process. CityGate has returned a final report; Chief Nohr will summarize and report at next meeting. Chief Nohr signed the purchase & sale agreements for properties on Hillhurst and Royle; to sign closing documents on March 16. Update on Station 24 pre-design; Board will need to make a determination of architect during design; Aetta will be providing a bid. Commissioner Bartel asked how Station 24 process can move forward quickly. Commissioner Bartel would like a cost estimate for removing the antique display area. Chief Nohr reminded Board of need to have a resolution delegating signing authority for bonds.

Chief Nohr reported that the boathouse was underinsured for the amount of fire loss. It will cost $220,000 to repair but was insured for $125,000. Attorney Snure is determining how to seek bids for this project since it is a unique building; once the determination is made, AC Peeler will send forward an emergency resolution allowing award for construction. Chief Nohr reported that fire alarm systems at all CCFR fire stations will need to be upgraded.

AC Jackson gave a brief update on the City of Woodland contracting with CCFR for building official duties. This will be for plans review, inspections, and related code support.

Chief Nohr reported on a mutual aid fire in Kelso on March 7. CCFR sent the on-duty BC, T21, E29, and E26 to this fire. CCFD6 sent E65. This was a large event at the Red Lion Hotel that taxed local resources. Cowlitz 2 Fire Chief Scott Goldstein sent a letter of thank you to CCFR and FD6, as well as FD3 for moving up companies. Chief Nohr commented on how the fire used 950,000 gallons of water; a similar fire would tax local water resources.

WORKSHOP – Mergers, Consolidations, and Regional Fire Authorities

Commissioner Chunn opened the workshop at 4:46 PM.

Chief Nohr reported that Clark County Council is ready to approve new Comprehensive Plan maps allowing the City of Vancouver and the City of Battle Ground to further expand their Urban Growth Areas (UGA) farther into the CCFR area. This will allow the cities to annex the areas in future years. Chief Nohr is concerned about potential erosion of tax base while still needing to serve nearby areas. Nohr provided information on what happens when a city annexes unincorporated area in a fire district, how fire district mergers work, as well as the pros and cons of forming a Regional Fire Authority (RFA).

Commissioners discussed the issue of annexation and how fire districts can work together more closely. Commissioners noted the desire to provide the best service for the residents. Commissioners expressed support for working closer with our neighboring agencies and looking at mergers if it is in the best interest of residents. President Michael Groat of IAFF Local 3674 noted that agencies have been working on interoperability for years and thanked the commissioners for looking at actions to ensure financial stability of the district while improving responses to residents.

Meeting resumed at 5:24 p.m.

Commissioner Chunn asked that a new standing agenda item titled Mutual Partnerships.

Chief Nohr advised commissioners that he will be on vacation for the next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief / District Secretary