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

May 14, 2026

Present Attendees:
Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Larry Bartel, Ken Ayers, and Jade Bourke. Chief John Nohr, AC Ben Peeler, AC Eamonn Ryan. AC Mike Jackson unavailable due to ongoing interviews. Finance Manager Brian Salsig, Finance Manager Kathy Streissguth. Recording Secretary Kaitlin Tester.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Flag Salute.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS
None.

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Commissioner Ayers, second by Commissioner Bartel to approve the consent agenda. Passed Unanimously. Question regarding the purpose of two checks, answered by Chief Nohr and AC Peeler.

COMMUNICATIONS
Commissioner Chunn shared communications from IAFF Local 452 is inviting commissioner participation for collaboration. Commissioner Chunn proposes an ad hoc committee is created, Commissioner Chunn and Commissioner Town agree to participate.

COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT
Councilmember Katie Favela from City of Ridgefield reports a study session will be held regarding fireworks May 21st 4:00 PM-6:00 PM. Council chat with Mayor Cole and Councilmember Hamilton will be held at Eight Cow Creamery on May 16th. Raptors opening game night is May 28th. Big paddle is scheduled for June 6th. The splash pad is open.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
None

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
Approved expenditures, discussion regarding facility upkeep and improvements, preparing for station inspections. Highlighted that it was Kathy's last FFFB meeting.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
Reviewed 2026 budget. Next meeting is scheduled for May 28th to provide resolution to the Board for a minor budget amendment. Annual report will be presented at the next meeting.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
None

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
Anticipating two-digit increases next year, utilizing medical at 102%, introduced Kristina as new healthcare director. TIF passed in the legislature with overwhelming support. Delayed submission of partial district EMS overlay due to concerns. Concerns regarding lithium batteries are growing, discussion was held regarding concerns. WFCA conference fees are increasing to $450.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke
Commissioner Bartel reports that meeting with Chairman Iyall went well. Continuing with development and Chairman Iyall invited CCFR to attend a meeting with development team to discuss concerns. Moving forward with Public Safety Complex to include Courts, Police, and Fire.

EMS District 2 – Bourke
None

Port of Ridgefield
None

Commissioner Updates
Commissioner Town reminds everyone that Ridgefield Junction Neighborhood Association is meeting on May 18th at 7:00 PM. Chief Nohr reports that CCFR Chiefs will be attending the Washington Fire Chief Conference and will request that the on-duty Battalion Chief attends. Commissioner Bartel states he will attend.
Commissioner Bartel requests an update regarding the status of assigning an architect for the Ridgefield project, AC Peeler reports that designs are still in progress and is waiting to present to the Board until costs are identified. Discussion regarding implementation of sign at new property was held.
Commissioner Chunn will be out of town for May 28th meeting, will attempt to attend remotely.

CHIEF REPORT
AC Ryan apologizes for delay in first quarter reports. Completed Battalion Chief test, there were five successful candidates. One will be promoted effective June 1st to Battalion Chief, a Firefighter will be promoted to Captain effective June 1st as well. Both will be attending May 28th board meeting to be sworn in. Search & Rescue specialist completed classes, well attended by many CCFR staff. Organized by Firefighter Joseph Smith. CCFR SOG was reviewed and updated. Lithium-Ion batteries continue to be a major topic at county operations, joint effort to create county wide SOG; Due to hazmat components VFD will take the lead with input from partners. Researching cleaning facilities to ensure appropriate gear cleaning processes are followed. County utilizes Blue Card for residential and commercial fires, will be transitioning to utilize Big Box for facilities 50,000 square ft or larger. Six firefighters hired in 2025 completed probation on March 17th, and completed apparatus academy; congratulations to them. AC Ryan has submitted his retirement to Chief Nohr to officially retire March 31, 2027.

AC Peeler reports advertising for firefighters and paramedics. Onboarded six new admin positions in first quarter. Working on budget amendment items to be discussed at next finance meeting. AC Peeler provides updates regarding facility project completions. Sign out front has been replaced; Kaitlin Tester will operate the sign. Station 21 admin area update is being designed and prepared for permitting, once cost is identified it will be presented to the Commissioners prior to going to bid. Station 23 asphalt overlay has been completed. Station 29 design phase is 50% completed and will be resubmitted to costing for an update, anticipating another month before able to go to bid. Relocation of Station 29 crews will be at 100 Davidson, several upgrades need to be completed prior to relocation for tap out system, etc. Boat House is nearing completion and is going very well. Training burn will be completed on June 8th.

Commissioner Bartel reports receiving positive feedback towards Kaitlin Tester and Director of Health Care Program reported very positive feedback towards Kristen Olson.

Chief Nohr introduced Lauren and requested they highlight the communications role she is providing CCFR. Chiefs will be out of town next week May 18th-21st due to Fire Chiefs Association, AC Jackson will be out of town on vacation. Battalion Chief will be point of contact. Clark County Fire Marshal is keeping CCFR informed regarding the suspicious Lewisville Park fires. Chief Nohr commends crew that responded to difficult call last weekend, peer support members will be conducting a debrief. Chief Nohr invites the Commissioners to attend station inspections scheduled for May 25th-June 5th. July 4th planning is underway, County fire chiefs are concerned due to dry conditions; Chief Nohr is planning to staff two brush rigs unless weather conditions adjust. Continuing to work towards gathering information for the bond, bond attorney will attend June 11th board meeting. Chief Nohr reports a plan for truck replacement, with a 48-53 month lead time.

Commissioner Bartel requests an update on LifeScan. Chief Nohr reports that HR Manager Kristen Olson is continuing to explore options; a minimum of 45 people need to attend, Kristen will be reaching out to partner agencies to attend.

Commissioner Ayers requests information as to who mows and maintains the field behind Station 21. AC Peeler will provide contact information. Chief Nohr reports that CCFR will be conducting trench rescue training and is reviewing viable options.

PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES

Chief Nohr in conversation with Chief Russel at District 6, and Chief Drone at District 3 to explore opportunities for the Boards to meet. Chief Nohr will be reaching out to bordering agencies to explore collaboration opportunities.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Chief Nohr reports that 3 sessions were completed, Vancouver Fire Chief Drake led May 1st and May 4th sessions. Discussions were held regarding vision, mission, and values. Goals will be determined after SWOC analysis is completed. Kaitlin Tester will compile results. Chief Nohr reports very good participation with internal staff and external partners and citizens. Target is to have plan in place by September.

LATE ADDITIONS

None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kathy Streissguth states that the Hazel Dell Parade of Bands is occurring May 16th 9:00-1:00 and that Monday, May 25th is Memorial Day, administrative office will be closed, and the finance staff reports will be out soon.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief / District Secretary