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

August 13th, 2026

Present Attendees:
Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke, Ken Ayers. Chief John Nohr, AC Ben Peeler, AC Eamonn Ryan. Finance Manager Brian Salsig. HR Manager Kristen Olson. Recording Secretary Kaitlin Tester.

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

Flag Salute.

- **CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS**
  - None
- **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - Commissioner Bourke motions to approve, Commissioner Town seconds. Passed Unanimously.
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - Chief Nohr reports an invite to the America 250 Fall Fest & Chili Cookoff at the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens in Woodland on Saturday Sept. 19th, Chief Nohr will distribute event information.
  - Sheriff Horch shares praise and appreciation for Kristen Olson regarding her tenure at CCSO.
    - Chief Nohr adds that all administrative staff are doing an exceptional job.
    - Commissioner Chunn adds that he is impressed with the quality of all staff at CCFR.
  - Ridgefield Neighbors Helping Neighbors presents a plaque to CCFR in recognition of support.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT**
  - Katie Favela - City Council, City of Ridgefield
    - Two traffic revisions have been completed in Ridgefield.
      - 45-day trial at Pioneer and 56th roundabout to mitigate impact points observed.
      - Downtown N 4th Ave is moving one way, in addition to 30 new parking spaces downtown.
    - Mural has been added downtown at the intersection of Main and Mill to help aid pedestrian and cyclist safety.
    - Stage 3 water conservation was implemented July 18th and remains in effect.
    - Thank you to CCFR for the Fired-Up Girls Camp, Katie attended as a guest and praises the leadership and example provided by CCFR and CFD6 staff.
- **CITIZEN COMMENTS**
  - None

- **STANDING COMMITTEES**
  - **Clark County Fire Risk Management Group**
    - None
  - **Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board**
    - None
  - **Finance Committee – Town/Bourke**
    - None
  - **Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers**
    - None
  - **WFCA Region VIII – Bartel**
    - Health committee holds a good reserve, with 7 claims to date. Rate increases upcoming. Executive reports that buildings are fully rented, education is holding good attendance. Lorrie is doing very well. Commissioner Bartel recommends utilizing the same company for Strategic Planning. Anticipating State Budget Shortfall. Updates to 305 standards are coming this year.
  - **Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke**
    - Point of contact update, Chief Nohr will follow-up.
  - **EMS District 2 – Bourke**
    - October 12th, 1300
  - **Port of Ridgefield - Bartel**
    - Discussion continues regarding waterfront construction plans. An individual from interstate bridge crossing attended and reports that the project remains on scheduled total 5 miles of both sides of I-5 is scheduled to begin in 2028 with a projected completed date of 10 years.
  - **Commissioner Updates**
    - None
- **STAFF REPORTS**
  - Quarterly Staff Reports provided to all Commissioners for CRR, C.A.R.E.S, Operations, and Administration.
  - AC Peeler highlights new staff onboarding and upcoming projects, HRIS platform evaluation, the upcoming academy, and station construction/updates.
  - AC Ryan highlights removal of PFAS chemicals from firefighting foam in CCFR operations to follow new regulations. Continuing to work with partner agencies to ensure Big Box dispatches are responded to in coordination. All CCFR members have successfully completed Wildland refresher and received red cards. Thank you to Michael Groat for leading Apparatus Operator Academy, tasks books have been distributed to all participants with a completion date of August 31st.
  - HR Manager Kristen Olson reports that the 8 hires for academy are successfully progressing to Sept. 1st start date. 1 new C.A.R.E.S Paramedic started Tuesday, August 11th and 1 new C.A.R.E.S admin intern. LifeScan is moving forward with scheduling dates through the beginning of 2027.
  - Finance Manager Brian Salsig reports on the Quarter 2 Financial & Operational Executive Report provided to the Commissioners which summarizes year-to-date and projected spending through the end of fiscal year.

- **Chief Report – Chief Nohr**
  - Chief Nohr requests adjusting the first Citizen Comment section from Step 7 to Step 4 to ensure compliance with the Public Meetings RCW.
    - Requests a commissioner to attend the audit interview scheduled for the week of August 24th.
  - Chief Nohr recommends review of the Mason County Audit Report that was published by the State Auditors Office to the Commissioners.
  - Chief Nohr commends staff who responded to plane crash near Daybreak Airport, recognizes the excellent work from Captain Gratzer, Chief Brooks, and responding crews and is impressed by the coordination to all responding crews and community members.
    - Commissioner Bartel reports high praises received from a District to the south of CCFR jurisdiction.
  - Chief Nohr reports an incident on July 19th at Paradise Point Park where two Citizens provided life saving rescues to three individuals in distress. An Award Ceremony is scheduled for August 27th, Point North is coordinating media, and both families will be in attendance. An Award Committee is being formed to recognize internal and external events.
  - Chief Nohr reports temporary promotion of Ian Fagan to Battalion Chief, and Brian Borrelli to Captain due to a long-term absence effective September 1st.
  - CCFR is hosting a Swearing in Ceremony for three promotions and 8 new hires on August 31st at 5:00 PM and requests Commissioners attend. Point North is coordinating media for the event.
  - CCFR Capital Facilities Plan has been approved by the County Planning Committee
    - The County Council has requested a public hearing regarding School and Fire Impact Fees.
    - Chief Nohr will forward date information to Commissioners and requests Commissioner attendance.
      - Commissioners discuss attendance and agree the importance of attending. Select Commissioner Bartel and Commissioner Town to attend.
  - Chief Peeler has been working with Kaitlin Tester to streamline MOBE billing.
    - Thank you to Chief Peeler and Kaitlin Tester for the work completed.
  - Commissioner Chunn, Ayers, Bourke, and Bartel will attend the WFCA October Conference.
  - Chief Nohr requests approval from the Board to sign for the bid on the Ladder Truck.
    - Commissioner Town motions for approval, Commissioner Ayers seconds. Passed unanimously.
- **BOND UPDATE**
  - Overview of successful bond process provided by Jim Nelson and Deanna Gregory from DA Davidson.
- **PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AT ST. 24**
  - Karl Johansson reports on project management services.
    - Projects 6-8 months for design with construction beginning Spring or Summer 2027 with anticipated completion of Fall 2027.
    - Commissioners confirm they would like monthly updates from the architect and project manager once construction begins.
    - Commissioners request a virtual walk-through of Station 24 in September.
  - Chief Nohr requests authorization to move forward as proposed.
    - Commissioner Bourke motions for approval, Commissioner Bartel seconds. Passed unanimously.

- **EMS LEVY FUNDS**
  - Commissioner Bartel proposes a meeting with County Treasurer and County Assessor
    - All Commissioners support organizing a meeting. Chief Nohr will coordinate.
      - Commissioner Town will attend with Commissioner Bartel; Commissioner Bourke will alternate if needed.
- **PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES**
    - Chief Nohr reports neighboring departments training opportunities with rural water access. CFD10 & CCFR assisted with leading the training.
      - Training was successful and received positive feedback from all departments involved.
  - Chief Nohr is speaking with CFD3 and CFD6 regarding Commissioner collaboration meetings.
    - CFD6 has requested meeting at the conference due to timeline.
    - CFD3 has requested CCFR Commissioners attend CFD3 regular meetings on the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of each month.
      - Chief Nohr will send a survey to Commissioners to identify a date.
- **STRATEGIC PLANNING – Chief Nohr**
  - Meet with Assistant Chiefs, Finance Manager, and HR Manager to discuss strategic workshop data.
  - Email will be distributed to CCFR staff with an update.
  - Highlights the reported concerns, weaknesses, and strengths captured from the Strategic Workshop data to the Commissioners.
  - Next steps will be to identify goals and the method to reach those goals.
- **CRITERIA FOR CHIEF PERFORMANCE REIVEW**
  - Commissioner Chunn recommends a 360-review of Chief Nohr where an anonymous survey is distributed for review of performance.
    - Commissioners are in support of this method and suggest 5 items to be included in the survey to review at the next board meeting.
- **LATE ADDITIONS**
  - None
- **CITIZEN COMMENTS**
  - None

Meeting Adjourned 1751

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief / District Secretary