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

September 10th, 2026

Present Attendees:
Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Ken Ayers, Jade Bourke, Larry Bartel.
AC Ben Peeler, AC Eamonn Ryan, AC Mike Jackson. Finance Manager Brian Salsig

Recording Secretary Kaitlin Tester.

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

Flag Salute.

- **CITIZEN COMMENTS**
  - None
- **CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS**
  - EMS related to TIFF-Bartel
- **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - Commissioner Bartel motions to approve, Commissioner Bourke seconds. All in favor.
  - Discussion regarding adjustment of check processing dates.
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - Thank you letter was received from the Pink Lemonade project, appreciating the role Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue has in advancing their mission.
  - Thank you letter was received from Hughes Fire Equipment and Peirce Manufacturing for the purchase of fire engines.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT**
  - **Councilwoman Katie Favela, City of Ridgefield**
    - Influx of commercial development continues in City of Ridgefield including 16-acre CPI commercial development, Chevron improvement project
    - First Saturday will host Council Chats, Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore will be at Seasons Coffee on September 12th and then October 17th at Windy Hills Winery.
    - Recruiting for next Youth Commission, Ridgefield is expanding to 15 youth commissioners.
    - Honoring City Manager, Lee Knottnerus retirement at 9/10 Council Meeting.
    - Meet the Chief - Community Event at Davis Park from 5:00-7:00 PM to meet Ridgefield Police Chief, Jim Qauckenbush.
- **STANDING COMMITTEES**
  - **Clark County Fire Risk Management Group**
    - None
  - **Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board**
    - Met on September 9th
      - Approved ~$27,000 expenditures
      - January 1st engine swap out from CCFR engine to a CFD6 engine per ops plan.

- 5th amendment from the lease and sublease has been approved regarding the reallocation of space.

- **Finance Committee – Town/Bourke**
  - Completed entrance conference for audit on Tuesday, 9/8.
- **Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers**
  - None
- **WFCA Region VIII – Bartel**
  - Reminder to everyone Region 8 meeting in Napavine on October 6th at 6:30 PM.
  - Commissioner Bartel requests topics.
- **Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke**
  - New General Manager of Ilani, Alan Trantina
    - Kara Fox-LaRose is moving to the role of President of Gaming Authority
  - Beginning steps for east side development
- **EMS District 2 – Bourke**
  - None
- **Port of Ridgefield – Bartel**
  - None
- **Commissioner Updates**
  - September 15th Clark County Council hearing regarding impact fees.
    - Commissioner Chunn requests Kaitlin Tester distributes attending link to the Board.

- **CHIEF REPORT**
  - 2025 annual report to be posted to the website on Monday, September 14th.
  - Signed agreement on Board Management software to assist in streamlining processes, accessibility, and transparency.
- **PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES**
  - Chief Nohr continues to meet with Chiefs from VFD and CFD6 to review options to look at modeling a regionalization approach.
- **STRATEGIC PLANNING**
  - Weekly meetings being conducted regarding Strategic Plan.
    - Review of previous Strategic Plan was conducted, and status of items were captured.
    - Division heads identify key topics and meet with stakeholders.
- **ST. 21 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE PROJECT**
  - Requesting approval to move forward with St. 21 administrative office project
    - Commissioner Bartel motions to approve, Commissioner Ayers seconds. All in favor.
- **CONSTRUCTION UPDATES**
  - AC Peeler asks if the Board would like construction updates to be a standing agenda item. Commissioners request construction updates to be a standing item.
  - St. 24
    - AC Peeler distributed pre-design documents to Commissioners.
    - Timeline:
      - Schematic design will be conducted through the end of October 2026.
      - Design development will go through the end of November 2026.
      - Construction documents will begin in January 2027.
    - Cost estimating will be provided throughout each of the identified phases.

        - Commissioners request a virtual walkthrough in the schematic design phase.
    - St. 29
        - 100 Davidson lease is anticipated to be signed on September 21st.
        - Impact fees will be allocated to Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue upon completion of the City of Woodland bond payments.
        - Paused moving to bid for Station 29 until Owners Rep position is recruited.
    - Project Manager Position
        - AC Peeler reports evaluating 3 separate models for this role.
            - Contracting with company
            - Contracted employee
            - Term-limited full-time CCFR employee
        - AC Peeler requests to hire term-limited full-time position
            - Commissioner Bartel motions to approve, Commissioner Town seconds. All in favor.

- **LATE ADDITIONS**
    - EMS Funds Related to TIFF
        - A meeting has been scheduled with County Assessors office to review the impacts of tax increment financing on EMS levy after law change in June 2026.
        - Standing agenda item for Sept. 24th board meeting.
- **CITIZEN COMMENTS**
    - None

Meeting Adjourned 4:47

Attest: John Nohr
Fire Chief / District Secretary