



**Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue
Board of Fire Commissioners
Joint Clark FD6 Workshop Minutes
Station 151 Operations
505 NW 179th Street, Ridgefield**

July 13, 2021

Present: Commissioners Stan Chunn, Ken Ayers, Larry Bartel, David Town. Chief John Nohr.

Representing Clark FD6: Commissioners Brad Lothspeich, Casey Collins, Chris Pfeifer. Chief Kristin Maurer.

Also Present for CCFR: DVCs Dan Yager and Mike Jackson, Recording Secretary Kathy Streissguth

Also Present for Clark FD6: Ops Chief David Russell, Admin Chief David Schmitt, Logs & Planning Chief Shawn Newberry.

Meeting called to order by FD6 Commissioner Lothspeich at 6:09 p.m.

Flag salute. Introductions.

Powerpoint presentation by FD6 Chief Maurer on the history of St151 with a focus on the disparity in mutual aid response between the two districts due to (her assessment of) CCFR operational and financing models. She pointed out multiple differences between the two agencies. Service area – CCFR is geographically approximately 3 ½ times the size of FD6 and predominately rural with longer response times. Tax rates: both collect \$1.49 in general levies, but CCFR has failed to pass an EMS levy. Mutual Aid Response: there is a significant imbalance in MA response and FD6 responds into CCFR far more often than CCFR does into FD6. Medical Care: FD6 provides ALS service on every rig, every day. CCFR does not, so they are getting the benefit of ALS service without paying for it every time FD6 responds into CCFR. WSRB Rating: FD6 is a 3 and CCFR is a 5. She stated that St151 is more important to CCFR than FD6. Per Chief Maurer, FD6 taxpayers are subsidizing CCFR and this must change as FD6 units covering CCFR calls are not available to FD6 residents while out of district. FD6 response is expected to be focused further south along the I-5 corridor. St151 does not factor into the current 3-year FD6 strategic plan or forecasted budget.

Chief Maurer recommended the following options for discussion regarding St151 operations and mitigation of the imbalance in mutual aid:

- Review the CCFR/FD6 and FFFB/County agreements – updates are needed
- Sub-lease all unused space at the facility to CCSO
- Update the sub-lease with CCSO to accurately reflect the space used
- CCFR pays an impact fee for FD6 incident response
- Create a water tender response agreement between CCFR and FD6, with a CCFR unit staged at St151. Noted this will help individual residents, but have a negligible impact to FD6.
- CCFR agreement to remit the area's tax collections to FD6
- Explore annexation/merger options

Chief Nohr acknowledged that CCFR is struggling to cover its service area and especially the SW corner of the district, which borders FD6. Pointed out his long-term plan was to see about some kind of staffing solution at St151. Asked for clarification on some data points. When did the volunteer program go to FD6 only? Determined to be approximately 4 or 5 years after the station opened in 2001. Chief Nohr advised that CCFR had been contributing financially to the FD6 volunteer program at St151 until it was discontinued. All agreed that volunteer programs are dwindling due to current safety requirements and life obligations of people in general. Discussion on the County's closest unit response program. CCFR also responds to the calls in this area unless everyone else is on another call. The point of closest unit is to get someone on scene to assist in an emergency. Chief Maurer agreed that getting units on scene fast and starting care quickly is everyone's goal, but CCFR relies on FD6 to make that happen as CCFR staffing does not allow for a quick response. Chief Nohr stated that actual percentage of the time is small. Agreed it's a problem, but not an off the charts problem. He does want to mitigate the situation. Would like to provide better service to the service area in both agencies.

Discussion.

Commissioner Chunn commented he was surprised that FD6 has no plans for St151 in their current plan as the last joint meeting 2 ½ years ago indicated that joint staffing of the facility was planned at some point. Commissioner Lothspeich advised that their funding will go towards staffing a new ladder truck, which is a priority for them at this time. Commissioner Bartel asked if FD6 is still invested in staying at St151. Commissioner Collins spoke for himself in that he'd like to see us utilize the brick and mortar that's already on the ground. Need to determine how to go forward. Commissioner Lothspeich advised the FD6 Board has not taken a position. Commissioner Pfeifer commented that the station isn't in an ideal location for FD6, but it is already paid for. Commissioner Lothspeich stated the imbalance needs to be addressed and FD6 really can't even look at St151 staffing until at least 2024. He stated that FD6 wants to be good neighbors and do the right thing, but feels it's being abused by CCFR.

Citizen comments: Several did not realize the station was not staffed. Concern expressed over the cost of all the taxing jurisdictions. Clarification provided on taxing jurisdictions. Citizens felt there will be a need for response from the station with the coming growth.

Commissioner Bartel agreed that CCFR has a greater need for the station right now, but both have a need in the long run. Seems that both agree the station is not going away, but what is next? He didn't have an interest in giving away more space to CCSO as it will be hard to get it back. Cost may be minimal to keep our foot in the door. Costs will vary due to maintenance issues.

Chief Newberry shared that he couldn't speak to why the information about FD6's plan regarding the future of St151 wasn't shared at that last meeting, but staffing St151 was not the FD6 plan even at that time. He doesn't feel that FD6 can commit to staffing the station in 3 years.

FD6 resident commented that his rating is an 8A. He would like to see FD6 focus on getting the entire district to 4 instead of focusing on getting part of it from a 3 to a 2.

Chief Nohr noted that FD6 also struggles to provide service to the NW corner of their district. WSRB ratings are higher Would like to find a way to collaboratively utilize the

paid-for facility to better support this area to the benefit of the taxpayers in both agencies.

Commissioner Bartel asked if it would be allowed by FD6 for CCFR to place staffing at the station on a limited basis. CCFR is planning additional hiring as the district grows. Commissioner Collins stated it's an issue for labor management. Will need to discuss further. Chief Nohr advised that the CCFR priority is to provide minimum staffing to all areas of the district and then increase the number of personnel per rig. ALS staffing on all rigs is a goal.

Discussed fees per call. A calculation cost per call has not been conducted. CCFR would like to see hard numbers.

Currently the three CCFR tenders are strategically located to protect the district. May need to consider a fourth tender to support St151. Tender response is primarily by the volunteer support group. Chief Nohr will look into the cost of another tender; though to impact WSRB there has to be some level of recognized staffing at the facility for it to benefit CCFR.

Commissioner Bartel commented we can't make any decisions until there is more information on costs.

Chief Maurer stated that FD6 staffing at St151 would primarily benefit CCFR and she cannot justify that to the FD6 taxpayers.

Options for further discussion are:

- An incident response fee to CCFR
- CCFR staffing at St151
- CCFR tender assignment at St151


CCFR goal is to provide quick and efficient service to all taxpayers and reduce insurance rates.

DVC Yager commented there seem to be two issues to address. What happens with St151 and addressing the inequity in mutual response. Commissioner Lothspeich advised the FD6 Board is not prepared to state their plans for the station at this time.

Boards will take the information back for further discussion and research of options with their staff.

A follow up workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, November 9 at 6 p.m. to be held at the Public Safety Complex (Station 151). No further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief/District Secretary