



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

August 12, 2021

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

Also Present: DVC Mike Jackson, Recording Secretary Kathy Streissguth

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 Town to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by Commissioner Ayers. Chief Nohr noted the current cash flow situation is good, though there are a lot of wildland mobilization bills. No further discussion. Call for the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group – Bartel

No meeting. No report.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board – Johnson

No meeting. No report.

Finance Committee – Town

No meeting. No report.

WFCA Region VIII Update – Bartel

No report.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Chunn advised the local pension committee approved Ostrand's, a former FD12 volunteer, retirement paperwork. Commissioner Bartel advised he will not be available for the August 26 meeting. Commissioner Chunn advised he will also be absent. Discussion. Meeting may be cancelled.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Nohr advised the staff reports for July will be presented at the next meeting as DVCs Peeler and Yager are on vacation. Captain Travis Smith resigned effective August 1.

Budgeting for four (4) new hires in September. Three to fill line vacancies created by personnel leaving - Kays, Yager and Smith. Anticipating funds to cover a fourth, which will also bring the shifts into balance. They will start September 20 and attend a local academy starting September 27. CCFR will provide one instructor. Summarized the district's participation in CCSO Sgt Jeremy Brown's memorial service.

Chief Nohr is coordinating efforts with the other fire district chiefs to enable fire impact fees in all unincorporated areas of the county. Also working to include the cities of Ridgefield and La Center. Putting together a presentation. Per Commissioner Bartel, the Ridgefield mayor welcomes the idea.

A number of personnel are out on wildland mobilizations. It's very busy across the region and there have even been several small local fires.

Chief Nohr has met with FD6 Chief Maurer to continue discussion on St151 operations and the response imbalance. There will be a CCFR workshop on September 9 to discuss ideas.

Discussed Governor Inslee's October 18 vaccination mandate for healthcare workers licensed by the State Department of Health. Applies to all EMTs and paramedics. Working with Local 3674 on how to move forward and creating guidance for employees to be distributed next week. Both the State Chiefs and the IAFF are endorsing this rule. Confirmed that a CCFR specific policy regarding mandatory vaccination would go to the Board for review/approval. Looking into the process on reporting exemptions to the State.

EMS LEVY WORKSHOP

Workshop opened at 4:16 p.m.

Chief Nohr staff report and presentation regarding the need for an EMS levy. 5-year history of CCFR call volume and type of incident, issues with lengthy ambulance responses to the district, staffing challenges, need for paramedics and election options/requirements. The AMR contract doesn't renew until January 2025. Hoping to get CCFR adjusted to a high-density area. Noted that we have approximately 50% ALS staffing. An EMS levy could bring ALS to every rig, every day and possibly three (3) staff per rig. The levy requires a 60% super majority. May be 6 years, 10 year or permanent. The 6-year and 10-year levies only need a simple certified majority for renewal. Chief Nohr commented a 6 or 10 might be best for the district, but he has no specific recommendations at this time. Will discuss further at the next meeting. Discussed implementing ambulance transport. Would require additional apparatus. Chief Nohr will gather costs and revenue options for the next meeting. Commissioner Bartel asked if the additional levy at \$0.50 would allow CCFR to staff St151. Chief Nohr thought that would cover it, but he needs to run the numbers. Commissioner Bartel stated he would like to see a proposal with numbers and an outline of what the citizens would get for the additional tax. He also asked about how this would affect the neighboring agencies. Commissioner Chunn would also like to see this information. Chief Nohr suggested that an EMS levy could be placed on the 2022 primary or general election ballot, which would allow time to educate the voters. Proposals will be prepared at tax rates of \$0.40, \$0.45 and \$0.50 with expenses calculated based on the cost of a medic on every rig staffed daily with three (3) personnel.

Workshop closed at 5:04 p.m.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief/District Secretary