



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

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**September 9, 2021**

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

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

Via Video Conference:  
Commissioner David Town

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 Johnson to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by Commissioner Bartel. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

District personnel will participate in the Experience Ridgefield event on Saturday, September 11. A ribbon cutting ceremony will also be held at 1:30 p.m. for the new rail overpass bridge to the marina. Email from FF Cushwa that the April recruits have successfully passed the apparatus operator academy.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Clark County Fire Risk Management Group – Bartel**

No meeting. No report.

**Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board – Johnson**

Commissioner Johnson summarized the September 8 meeting. Recommendation by the FFFB to adjust the operations cost share percentage with FD6 to 50/50. CCSO will continue to cover 59% of the facility operation costs with the two fire agencies splitting the remaining costs. The HVAC units at the facility will be replaced over the next 3 years. A second joint Board meeting with FD6 is scheduled for November 9.

**Finance Committee – Town**

No meeting. No report.

**WFCR Region VIII Update – Bartel**

No report.

## **Board for Volunteer Fire Fighters Local Committee**

Commissioner Chunn advised the Board approved a pension request for Bill Zander who recently retired from the district with over 25 years of service.

## **Commissioner Updates**

Commissioner Bartel reminded everyone of the SWFCA meeting on Thursday, September 16.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Admin Services**

DVC Yager summarized the July/August Administrative Services report. The St26 improvements have been identified and he is in the process of getting quotes. Advised that DVC Jackson will take over the Safety Officer duties.

### **Community Risk Reduction/CARES**

DVC Jackson detailed the Community Risk Reduction and CARES program activities for the months of July and August. Noted the CARES program is visibly reducing 911 use by those in the program. The burn ban will remain in place through the end of September.

### **Operations**

DVC Peeler is in CA on an EMAC assignment. Chief Nohr recapped the August Operations report. Noted that the January call average was 10.8 per day. It was 15.6 per day in August – a notable increase in call volume. Will be watching the numbers closely.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Nohr summarized the August Chief's report. Chief Nohr advised the chiefs are reviewing the types of calls we will no longer respond on unless there is a medical or fire component. August 27 was BC Lange's last shift. We wish him well in his retirement. He will remain on the payroll until the end of October. Crews participated in Ridgefield's National Night Out event on August 3. This was the first public event in quite a while. The three new hires (Gardner, Tri, Passera) are now on the line. Their first shifts were very busy. The 4 new hires (Massey, Howell, Lines, Smith) begin orientation on Monday, September 20. Massey is a nationally registered paramedic. The local academy in Camas starts on September 27.

Discussed mandatory vaccinations and Governor Inslee's edict that all EMTs must be vaccinated or have an approved exemption by October 18. Chief Nohr worked with Local 3674 on an MOU for an exemption and lay off process. The District received 10 religious exemption requests and all were approved by legal counsel. These employees are required to wear high level PPE and be regularly tested. The MOU is signed and in place.

Chief Nohr will attend the Ridgefield City meeting tonight to accept their proclamation recognizing September 11 as a representative of public safety. DVC Yager will attend tonight's volunteer drill at St26 in his place to recognize the retirements of Bill Zander and Matt Hieter.

Advised that the Lexipol policies are being released. More will be presented for Board review in the coming months.

Discussed the Chief's Memo on the organizational restructure. Abe Rommel will become the staff Logistics Battalion Chief in November. In January, Jason Leavitt will take over the

role of staff Training Battalion Chief while Ryan Berg moves to Lange's vacated position as line Battalion Chief.

### **EMS LEVY**

Chief Nohr review the EMS levy proposed expenditure plan. Noted there is an identified need for an EMS Captain position. His recommendation is to place the levy proposal on the November 2022 ballot. Commissioner Bartel asked about placing the proposal on the August primary to be aligned with other agencies running similar issues. Chief Nohr advised he spoke with Liz Loomis and she recommended November to take advantage of the extra time to educate voters as this is a new levy and will require a super majority. Her current fee structure is \$5,000/mo for 13 months; a total of \$65,000. Discussion. Chief Nohr clarified that the new line positions covered by the EMS levy are firefighter paramedics. Advised that there are no Covid grant dollars available to fund positions. Chief Nohr explained the two new ambulances would allow us to have 2 units ready to go. Would work a deal under the EMS District 2 with AMR to use our units when AMR is over a time to be determined. CCFR will bill for the service under a public/private collaboration. He proposed additional research and discussion. Will need a resolution to move forward with the proposal. Chief Nohr recommended using Ms. Loomis again. She is expensive, but good at what she does and CCFR doesn't have a PIO to take on the coordination of this project. Commissioner Bartel commented that he doesn't like using public dollars to ask the public for money. Commissioner Chunn agreed it is a good idea to move the timeline further out as we'll need the additional time to put together the proposal and get the information out to the voters. Commissioner Bartel stated that the November election is fine and a \$0.50 levy would allow us to put 3 on a rig will ALS service and be able to transport if necessary. Will need a transport plan. Discussed making CCFR transports only on higher priority calls. Scheduled an EMS Levy workshop on October 14. Chief Nohr will put a plan together for discussion and include a staffing plan for St151; putting CCFR at 6 staffed stations. Advised the contract with AMR may need to be modified and we might not be able to transport until 2024. Transporting may also open up other funding streams such as GEMT dollars. Hiring and equipment purchases will need to wait until the revenue starts coming in. Such a large hiring will need to be split into at least two academies.

### **WORKSHOP – ST151 & FD6 MUTUAL AID BALANCE**

Commissioner Chunn opened the workshop at 5:14 p.m.

Chief Nohr provided updated response area maps. Discussed the station response areas and scenarios based on staffing models using St151 and/or a new St24. Noted there are response time issues in the area for both agencies. Chief Nohr stated that FD6 does respond a lot into the SW section of CCFR, but is not in agreement that it's an excessive or abusive amount. Discussion regarding an FD6 suggestion for a per call fee agreement. A payment system does not solve the problem. Staffing a station in the area is the best solution. Would like to see joint staffing or an agreement to allow CCFR to staff St151 and respond to the area. FD6 Chief Maurer's suggested fee would cost CCFR approximately \$140,000 per year. Allowing for \$200/hr (rounding up the State Chief's rates for equipment and personnel at \$190/hr) would have cost the district \$12,800 for the 64 hours of time FD6 was in district. Discussion that charging for mutual aid is a slippery slope. Before agreeing to any pay-to-respond agreement, more research is needed. Discussed adding the CCFR water tenders to FD6 responses will improve insurance rates to properties in the area and be a benefit to their taxpayers. Commissioner Bartel pointed out there are multiple issues – how to address the response imbalance and how to staff St151. Chief Nohr does not want to walk away from St151 as the citizens have already paid for it. Discussed the ability to place staffing at St151 in 2022. Chief Nohr thought maybe twice a week dependent on availability of staffing and maintaining current

minimum staffing at 2 personnel. BC Graham contributed that an additional unit would help with multi-company responses. What is CCFR's position and how will the FD6 concerns be addressed? Chief Nohr will compile information on what CCFR is currently doing and a resolution proposal with a timeline on what we can do. Chief Nohr will continue to work with Chief Maurer to find out what might be agreeable to FD6.

Workshop closed at 5:50 p.m.

**LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.



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Attest, John Nohr  
Fire Chief/District Secretary



**CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE  
 CONSENT AGENDA  
 September 9, 2021**

1. Minutes

- August 12
- August 26 Cancelled

2. Pre-paid Invoices

- \$ 1,147.07 (FFFB Fund 6254)
  - i. Check No. 21167 paid August 26
- \$ 20,801.70 (CCFR General Fund 6228)
  - i. Check Nos. 21148 – 21166 paid August 26
  - ii. EFT No. 1517 paid August 30
- \$ 1,050.00 (Capital Fund 6224)
  - i. EFT No. 1518 paid August 30
- \$ 327,850.02 (CCFR August Payroll Benefits & DRS)
  - i. Check Nos. 6981 – 6991 dated August 30

3. Current Invoices

- \$ 82,258.63 (CCFR General Fund 6228)
  - i. Check Nos. 21202 – 21235
- \$ 440.31 (FFFB Fund 6254)
  - i. Check No. 21168

4. Approved Commissioner Stipends paid August 31

For the Period July 16 thru August 15						
Name	Regular Meeting	Committee Meeting	Assn Meeting	Educ	Other	Total
Ayers	1					1
Bartel	2					2
Chunn	2					2
Johnson	2					2
Town	2					2

5. Payroll

- August 1-31 paid August 31
  - i. \$ 836,341.25 Gross
  - ii. \$ 522,656.18 ACH net
  - iii. \$ 21,695.84 Payroll Warrant net
    - Check Nos. 6979 – 6980
  - iv. \$ 0.00 Payroll VOIDED
  - v. \$ 137,737.52 941 Tax Deposit paid August 31

6. August Use Tax

- \$-644.41 (CCFR) due September 24

7. Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants

- 21169 – 21201 Printer Malfunction



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Handwritten signature of Stanley Chunn.

Commissioner Stanley Chunn – Chair

Handwritten signature of James R. Johnson.

Commissioner James R Johnson – Vice Chair

Handwritten signature of Larry Bartel.

Commissioner Larry Bartel

Handwritten signature of Ken Ayers.

Commissioner Ken Ayers

Commissioner David Town *virtual*