



**Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue
Board of Fire Commissioners
Special Meeting Minutes
Joint Meeting – Clark County Fire District 6
505 NW 179th Street, Ridgefield**

November 11, 2022

Present: Commissioners Stan Chunn (Chair), Ken Ayers, Larry Bartel, Bob Johnson, David Town. Chief John Nohr, DVC Ben Peeler. Remote: Recording Secretary Kathy Streissguth

Present from Clark County Fire District 6: Commissioners Chris Pfeiffer (Chair), Brad Lothspeich. Fire Chief Kristan Maurer. Remote: Commissioner Rocky Haines.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Pfeiffer at 6:01 p.m.

Flag salute. Introductions. November 9 minutes approved. Citizen communication guidelines for the meeting provided. Remote viewing provided in two formats. FD6 You Tube channel and CCFR Zoom meeting room.

Commissioner Pfeiffer noted that a CCFR water tender has been added to response in the NW non-hydranted area of FD6. Testing of the effectiveness of this is needed. He asked if CCFR will formalize and MOU for placement of the tender. The agreement will allow them to request the Washington Survey & Rating Board (WSRB) to re-rate the area. Commissioner Bartel asked if that is necessary as we already have a mutual aid agreement in place throughout the County. Commissioner Lothspeich pointed out that mutual aid is different than first response. Commissioner Pfeiffer stated it is his understanding that in order to qualify for the tender credit it needs to be on the run cards and a formal agreement in place. Commissioner Lothspeich asked if the tender response will be duty crews or support volunteer. Chief Nohr advised that CCFR direction is that all requests by an outside agency for a tender will be responded to with an on-duty crew. CCFR is in the process of updating response its policies. Commissioner Pfeiffer asked about the timeline for the testing process and how it might be moved along. Chief Maurer advised that in order for FD6 to receive the tender credit, an MOU with CCFR is needed and the CCFR tender and personnel will need to pass the WSRB testing process. She requested this be completed by February 28 and asked if CCFR would be able to meet that deadline. Chief Nohr will see what the testing detail entails and will contact WSRB to see how they want to go about the process. He believes CCFR should be able to meet the timeline. Commissioner Bartel asked is it was needed as the CCFR tenders have already been assessed. Chief Nohr advised he confirmed with WSRB that a water tender capabilities test is required for an FD6 credit.

Commissioner Pfeifer noted that since the November meeting, they have seen a decrease in the number of responses by FD6 into CCFR. This may be attributed to the BCs triaging the calls. Thanked the BCs of both organizations and the work that's gone into managing utilization of resources.

Discussed the FFFB interlocal agreement. Commissioner Pfeiffer stated he understood there needs to be some updates to the agreement. Chief Maurer stated the current 50/50 split is a verbal agreement. Confirmed updates are needed. She added that the development of an operational plan, as stated in the agreement, has never been done. That would need to be added if staffing were to be placed at the station. The interlocal agreement reads that the FFFB would put the plan together to take back to the Districts for approval. Commissioner Pfeiffer asked what that process would look like if moving towards a June 1 potential staffing arrangement. Chief Maurer advised the FFFB may need to meet more often than bi-monthly or the chiefs may need to meet in the interim. Will need to see what CCFR has in mind for staffing to be able to build the agreement. She noted the interlocals agreements have been in place

for over 20 years, but the operational plan has never been completed. There are a lot of updates needed.

Commissioner Pfeiffer asked about the CCFR staffing plan. Chief Nohr advised he shared a staffing proposal with the CCFR Board on December 9 to place start staffing Station 151 on June 1. Initial staffing would be one two-person crew (captain and firefighter), at least one of which will be a paramedic. Will respond as closest unit to all incidents in CCFR. At their discretion, the unit may respond into FD6 as a closet unit or only on high priority calls.

Commissioner Bartel suggested the work should go to the FFFB to develop a plan to bring back to the Boards.

Commissioner Lothspeich asked if the plan is for an engine or a squad. Chief Nohr advised the best WSRB credit would be an engine. Current CCFR minimum staffing is two-person engine crews. It would not be unusual for CCFR to have an engine there. The CCFR proposal is to staff one 24-hour shift based on a 24/48 schedule. Commissioner Chunn advised the CCFR board has approved the chief to move forward with this staffing plan.

Commissioner Pfeiffer advised that FD6 is currently considering an EMS levy renewal. Commissioner Chunn shared that CCFR is also discussing an EMS levy. A workshop is scheduled for the next Board meeting to discuss further. Commissioner Lothspeich advised that FD6 wouldn't be able to commit to anything until after the EMS levy renewal passes.

Commissioner Haines asked what the staffing commitment is. Chief Nohr advised the station would be included in CCFR's minimum staffing requirements.

Commissioner Pfeiffer asked how both departments would like to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan. Chief Nohr advised the Chair Chunn was explicit that CCFR needs to perform a regular analysis of the call balance to see where things land. Where does the rig actually go? At this time, the GIS information is only theoretical. This is an opportunity to get real data. Commissioner Chunn thought that we should be able to get monthly reports with a formal evaluation as needed.

Discussion on handling priority calls and operational response parameters. Commissioner Haines asked if FD6 and CCFR has the same response guidelines. Chief Nohr advised that each agency can set its own response parameters and they may not be the same for all calls. Nohr advised CCFR will guarantee minimum two-person staffing at the station on the assigned shift notwithstanding a covid event that takes out half the workforce.

Commissioner Lothspeich stated CCSO will need advance notice to vacate the rooms being used and some of the truck back needed for a response crew. There are a number of logistics issues to resolve. Chief Nohr advised DVC Dan Yager retired on December 31. BC Abe Rommel has assumed his responsibilities. Planning to start sooner rather than later to get the work done to prepare the station for a resident crew. Commissioner Bartel stated the hardest part may be getting CCSO out. Some of the dorm rooms have been turned into office. A lot of logistics to get the station responder ready.

Chief Maurer recommended legal costs be split 50/50. Commissioner Bartel commented that would go through the FFFB and costs are already shared.

Discussed scheduling another joint meeting. The next FFFB meeting January 12. Discussion. Chief Nohr advised that the earlier CCFR would be able to provide staffing is June 1. May be able to discuss another date. The next joint meeting was set for March 29 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at Station 151.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom via Zoom posted: *"OR HOW ABOUT THIS... YOU MAKE A CHOICE TONIGHT TO GIVE US THE FIRE COVERAGE WE DESERVE!!!! LORD KNOWS WE'RE PAYING ENOUGH TAXES FOR IT!!!"*

Commissioner Bartel advised that interlocal agreements exist and we are not able to step outside what we agreed to. Commissioner Pfeiffer added we are making strides towards that common goal and a timeline is in place to address the staffing issue. Commissioner Chunn commented that we've identified to the need through the joint meetings. CCFR has committed to staffing the station as often/soon as they are able. He encouraged FD6 to join in when they can.

Commissioner Chunn asked for clarification on common expectations between the districts when looking at the metrics of mutual aid response. When is it counted as a response? Chief Nohr advised that will be included in the operational plan. Discussion. The plan will include common benchmarks. Chief Maurer advised that FD6 counts mutual aid from the time the unit is enroute. DVC Peeler stated information is coming from the same data set. Both agencies use data out of Firstwatch and have ESO incident reporting. Chief Maurer asked if we are finding it matches or is at least close. DVC Peeler said the parameters are slightly different. Commissioner Chunn expressed the need to make sure the same data is used to prevent confusion.

Dona Dingethal via Zoom posted: *"How do we obtain a copy of the minutes for this meeting? The audio was garbled so it was difficult at times to hear the conversation."* Both fire districts will post the minutes on their website after they are approved at the next Commissioners meetings. The FD6 video should be available on their youtube channel following this meeting.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief/District Secretary