



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

March 29, 2022

Present: Commissioners Stan Chunn (Chair), Ken Ayers, Larry Bartel, David Town. Fire Chief John Nohr, DVC Ben Peeler.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Chunn at 6:00 p.m.

Flag salute. Introductions.

No late additions to the agenda.

Noted that the minutes of the last meeting were taken by each agency and approved at a subsequent regular meeting of the respective boards. These minutes are available on each agency's website www.ccfcd6.org and www.clarkfr.org or available on request.

Recapped the previous meeting timeline. July 13, 2021 was the first joint meeting where mutual aid responses and coverage issues were discussed. Proposals for coverage were discussed on November 9, 2021. On January 11, 2022 CCFR presented a plan for partial coverage at the Station 151 starting June 2022.

DVC Peeler reviewed the CCFR proposal to staff the station with an ALS crew of two personnel the beginning of June with the plan to increase staffing to three in July after the most recent hires have completed their training academy and moved to the line. Upstaffing over the past year will allow CCFR to staff an additional apparatus for one shift. CCFR crews work a 48/96 schedule, which is two days on and 4 days off. Reviewed operational dispatches. The unit placed at Station 151 would be a CCFR Type 1 fire engine available to run all CCFR calls to the north based on closest unit response and any FD6 calls to the south per existing mutual aid agreements, FD6 response plans or any additional requests. Additionally, a new Type 5 wildfire engine is expected to be complete and placed in service sometime in July. This will free up one of CCFR's Type 6 wildfire engines, which will be also be assigned to Station 151. Delays in the supply chain may impact the completion date.

Chief Nohr clarified that CCFR is committed to staffing the proposed shift as presented under existing staffing agreements with the union. Backfill for any time off will be covered by overtime if necessary. Chief Maurer asked if CCFR would be moving to a 24/48 schedule to match FD6. DVC Peeler advised that the local is still open to future discussion, but as it's only the CCFR unit and FD6 will not be participating in the staffing plan, there is no point in changing the schedule at this time. This will maintain scheduling consistency at CCFR. Should FD6 join in on the staffing plan, DVC Peeler pointed out there is actually one shift that doesn't touch another. For example, the CCFR A shift doesn't ever overlap the

FD6 C shift. There also may be an option to maintain the different schedules without an issue. Chief Nohr shared that he has had discussions with the union and they are open to discussing the schedule.

Commissioner Haines asked about consistent ALS staffing and whether additional personnel were hired or would CCFR be pulling from other resources. Chief Nohr confirmed one of the crew members will always be a paramedic and yes, additional personnel have been hired. Service will not be reduced at the other locations. DVC Peeler advised 6 additional positions were added in roughly the past 6 months. The station will be staffed 2 out of 6 days. Commissioner Chunn clarified for everyone that the new hires won't be the ones assigned to the station – those employees are increasing the pool of available personnel. Chief Nohr shared that the crew members assigned will be more senior employees and CCFR will be promoting another captain to the role of station officer.

Commissioner Lothspeich confirmed that the operational plan needs to be approved by the Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board (FFFB) at their next meeting. Also, there are a number of things to be done to get the quarters ready for resident crews. Logistics BC Rommel shared his recommendations on space needs, minor modifications and purchases of supplies and furniture. DVC Peeler advised the bare minimum space is currently available and will work initially. Working with CCSO on the timeline for the additional space we need to reclaim. Chief Nohr reported he spoke with CCSO Commander Horch and assured him we not kicking them out of the building and will be working with them through the process.

Commissioner Lothspeich advised that a volunteer program was supported by FD6 for many years, but due to safety concerns they were pulled out of the station when Covid hit. It has also been very hard to keep volunteers. He is pleased that CCFR has the resources to see how full-time staffing will work. We'll get some data on the response needs. Hopefully FD6 can participate down the road.

Chief Nohr advised Commissioner Haines, that no, we are not reducing other services. DVC Peeler shared that the additional personnel that were going to increase another company by one will be assigned to Station 151.

Chief Maurer shared information about the water tender agreement between CCFR and FD6 and subsequent Washington Survey and Rating Board (WSRB) reevaluation. With CCFR providing a water tender by contract and having successfully passed the water flow test, the WSRB rating will lower in the non-hydranted NW area FD6, which should result in reduced insurance premiums for property owners in the affected area. The rate should be updated in the next month or so. Homeowners will need to contact their insurance carriers to request a rate reduction.

Commissioner Chunn explained some history and the role of the FFFB, a committee comprised of the fire chief and an elected official of both CCFR and FD6 to manage facility and station operations. The Clark County Sheriff's Office also participates in the meetings, but is not a voting member.

Chief Nohr advised he will be sending a letter to ask if FD6 has capacity for large apparatus repairs. Chief Maurer advised she has not had an opportunity to bring that idea to the FD6 Board.

Commissioner Lothspeich advised that at this time FD6 will not be placing personnel at the station. Their 5-year strategic plan priority has been to staff a ladder truck, which will serve all the citizens of the district. Adamant that they are not abandoning the station, but they are not in a position to staff the station at this time. Hoping to do so in the future.

Discussed water tender operations. Discussed misinformation presented in a letter distributed by the Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association. Though there is currently no one responding out of the station, CCFR and FD6 are not abandoning the station. Giving the station back to County was touched on as a non-viable option in an early meeting. There is now a plan to move forward with full-time staffing and improving service in the area.

Commissioner Chunn opened the floor to questions from the public.

Discussed the difficulties in providing information to the public. Both agencies have a social media presence. Ongoing challenges of getting information out to the public. Chief Maurer added that the station was not built to cover the fairgrounds and the amphitheater. FD6 has a small station for the fair and the amphitheater has a private contract. Noted that taxpayers are not paying a special tax for the facility – general taxes already collected by the participating agencies are used. Commissioner Bartel suggested that both agencies review their communications procedures.

It was shared that the Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association is looking for new leadership and may have a database of contacts. Both departments will make an effort to be more involved in the Association. Discussed the challenges of using Next Door. Chief Nohr advised that CCFR has made multiple attempts to join, but they have not been willing to work with us despite other County and State level agencies apparently not having the same issues.

The Commissioners thanked those attending for their participation. Encouraged feedback on how we can better communicate. Citizen recommendation to send out a mailer. Commissioner Chunn advised that physical mailings can be very expensive. Chief Maurer advised that FD6 has a quarterly digital newsletter. The sign up is on their website. Chief Nohr advised that though CCFR is not currently producing a newsletter, it should be easy for them to do something similar.

Discussion on local increases in minor crime and the newly installed security fencing around the facility.

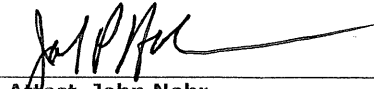
Confirmed that CCFR will be staffing the station a third of the time and FD6 will not be providing any staffing at this time. Commissioner Bartel advised that should the CCFR EMS levy pass in August, as soon as they can get the people online it will have the resources to staff the station full time. There are internal politics involved and an agreement would need to be reached with FD6 on how that would work. Commissioner Chunn added that should the levy pass, a proposal will be placed before the FFFB for CCFR to increase staffing to 100%.

Chief Maurer reiterated that FD6 is not walking away from the station. Commissioner Haines reminded everyone there has never been full time staffing since the station was opened. Discussion on the process of how police and fire are dispatched and respond even though there is no one at the station.

The CCFR staffing proposal will go before the FFFB at their next meeting for final approval.

A video of the meeting may be found on the Clark County Fire District 6 YouTube channel.

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



Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief/District Secretary