



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

October 13, 2022

Present: Commissioners Chair Stan Chunn, Vice Chair David Town, Ken Ayers, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke. Chief John Nohr, DVCs Mike Jackson and Ben Peeler. Logistics BC Abe Rommel.

Remote: 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 Bartel to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second Commissioner Town. Commissioner Bartel asked about the Shop11 engine replacement invoice. Chief Nohr advised this was the pickup that had been surplused for a blown engine earlier in the year. It was approved to repair and return the vehicle to service due to the immediate need for an additional staff vehicle and the lack of readily available vehicles on the market. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Note from North Country EMS Chief Sean Ford regarding the memorial service for retired Chief Tom McDowell. Thank you note from Vancouver AA for use of the meeting room with a \$200 donation given to the CCFR Volunteer Firefighter's Association. Invitation to the TIP dinner on Saturday October 22. Chief Nohr will attend.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group

October 5 meeting cancelled as the policy information was not yet available. Meeting to be rescheduled.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board

No meeting. No report.

Finance Committee

No meeting. No report.

Local BVFF

No meeting. No report.

WFCA Region VIII

No report.

Commissioner Updates

SW Fire Commissioners meeting was held on October 5. Commissioner Chunn advised four of the Board members will be attending the WFCA conference in Spokane October 26-29. The October 27 Board meeting was cancelled.

STAFF REPORTS**Operations/Training/Logistics – Peeler**

DVC Peeler reviewed the September operations, training and logistics reports. He advised that BC Rommel has been working on firefighter/paramedic recruiting. 102 candidates are moving forward in the process, 27 of which are laterals. Reminder that it's now flu season – get your shot. Noted a Covid upswing with several personnel out related to exposures. Update on the Nakia Creek fire north of Washougal. EMS training is working with Ilani Resort EMT personnel regarding preparing for responses in the new hotel. The latest new engine in production at Pierce Manufacturing is nearing completion. Reported a blown transmission on the 2009 engine assigned to Station 151. Will take approximately 60-days to get a transmission and \$26,000 to repair. Discussed the cost of new engines running about \$900,000. Commissioner Bartel suggested reviewing the specifications to make sure we are not getting more than we need. DVC Peeler advised that all the apparatus manufacturers have had significant cost increases.

Community Risk Reduction/CARES – Jackson

DVC Jackson detailed CRR and CARES activities for the month of September. Continuing to work with various agencies to secure long-term funding for the CARES program. Shared information regarding a funding opportunity with Beacon Health for mental health response services. The CARES team has relocated to Station 21. Working with the City of Ridgefield on a grant from the Association of Washington Cities for additional funding to support CARES and CRR staffing. The CARES community paramedic position has been temporarily filled by Captain Dohman following Haldeman's return to the line. There is no internal interest for reassignment to the position. As a result, it will be necessary to post and hire externally, but there is currently no defined position or pay scale. Chief Nohr proposed a single role paramedic position and pay scale for Board review and approval. Recommendation for a 5% position premium for the community paramedic position. The proposal is in line with area agency pay scales. Discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Bartel to authorize Chief Nohr to sign the Beacon Health service contract should he determine it meets the needs of the district. Second Commissioner Ayers. Contract will go to legal review prior to execution. Commissioner Chunn pointed out the district is still operating under the emergency rules allowing the Chief additional authority and the

governor is rescinding the emergency orders for the State the end of the month. Will address this in November. Commended DVC Jackson and his efforts in keeping the district on the forefront with these new programs. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Bartel to approve the single role paramedic position and pay scale. Second Commissioner Town. Chief Nohr confirmed that initially the position would be non-represented, though the employees would be able to establish a bargaining unit once there are three of them. Chief Nohr anticipates this is likely to occur at some point and confirmed the labor unit is aware and has no issues with the new position. DVC Jackson advised that the lack of interest internally appears to be related to work schedules. Commissioner Bourke asked what would happen to the position should funding fall through. Chief Nohr advised that he has been very upfront that positions could be eliminated if funding falls through. DVC Jackson is continuing to aggressively pursue permanent long-term funding in coordination with several health and social service providers in the area. Confirmed that single role paramedics may also be used to staff an ambulance. Commissioner Town asked about the pay difference with that of a firefighter. Chief Nohr explained that single role paramedics do not have the training, certifications or same level of risk as firefighters; thus the disparate pay rate. It is common in the industry that paramedic firefighters and single role paramedics have different rates of pay. The proposed rates are comparable with other agencies in our area. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

District Secretary/Chief

Chief Nohr summarized the September Chief's report. Informed the Board that he was appointed to the Camas City Council and there are no expected conflicts with his duties at CCFR. It is a one-year appointment; the position will be up for election next November.

Establishing the new budget is consuming a great deal of staff time. A balanced budget has been created and will be presented for preliminary review at a Finance Committee meeting on October 18 at 4:00 p.m. A special meeting will be held on November 2 for Board review of the proposed 2023 budget. Anticipate resolutions for adoption of the budget(s) on November 10. Commissioner Chunn advised he is not able to attend the October 18 Finance Committee meeting. Commissioner Bartel will attend in his place.

2023 REVENUE HEARING

Commissioner Chunn opened the 2023 revenue hearing at 5:02 p.m.

Chief Nohr shared the anticipated 2023 revenue streams by fund, source and purpose. The Clark County assessed valuation is estimated at \$9,852,167,679, which includes \$467,429,198 in new construction and the Cowlitz County estimate is \$1,116,444,713, which includes \$1,153,000 in new construction. Finance has contacted Cowlitz County regarding the unusually low new construction number. Total valuation is now estimated at \$10,968,612,392, which includes \$468,582,198 in new construction. The general levy is projected to be \$14,465,350 with a rate of approximately \$1.468 per \$1,000 AV. Per policy, 1.5% of the general levy – about

\$215,000 will be allocated to the contingency reserve fund. The new EMS levy is estimated at \$5,484,300. EMS operational expenditures will be budgeted based on collecting 92% of the first year EMS levy assessment. Streissguth has advised the Chief that in the first year of a levy assessment the collection rate is normally 95%. It is fiscally prudent to be conservative in the collection estimate for expenditure budgeting. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe contract amount was entered at \$346,400; the same amount paid in 2022. The opening of the hotel will require further negotiation with the Tribe. LTGO debt proceeds of \$800,000 has been included to fund the purchase of two ambulances – actual financing source yet to be determined. An EMS contingency fund has not been established. DVC Peeler advised there are a number of one-time expenses in the first related to the large hiring process and purchase of new equipment. Will have a better handle on ongoing costs in the subsequent year. Reviewed the other revenue streams in all funds.

Request for public comment. None. Revenue hearing closed at 5:20 p.m.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS


None.

5-minute break to clear the room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved to executive session at 5:25 p.m. to discuss the fire chief's performance review. Anticipated length of session 10 minutes. No action anticipated. Meeting resumed at 5:35 p.m.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.



Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief/District Secretary



**CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
 CONSENT AGENDA
 October 13, 2022**

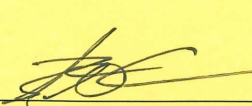
1. Minutes
 - September 22 Board Meeting
2. Invoices
 - \$ 96,665.16 (CCFR General Fund 6228)
 - i. \$ 4,724.36 EFT 1915 – October 12
 - ii. \$ 1,610.01 ACH 1916 – October 17
 - iii. \$ 261.44 EFT 1917 – October 13
 - iv. \$ 80,065.75 Check Nos. 100776 – 100828 – October 13
 - v. \$ 9,833.50 ACH 1952 – 1956 – October 17
 - vi. \$ 170.10 ACH 1976 – October 17
 - \$ 2,811.02 (FFFB Fund 6254)
 - i. \$ 1,232.42 Check Nos. 100663 – 100664
 - ii. \$ 1,578.60 EFT 1565 to be paid August 15
3. US Bank VISA Statement Ending October 6 – \$ 26,129.05 due October 13
 - \$ 24,515.86 CCFR
 - \$ 1,613.19 FFFB
4. Payroll
 - September 1 – 30 paid October 7
 - i. \$ 895,874.57 Gross Pay
 - ii. \$ 589,474.19 ACH net
 - iii. \$ 137,148.17 Tax Deposit paid October 7
5. September Use Tax to be paid October 25
 - \$ 1,055.29 CCFR
 - \$ 0.00 FFFB
6. Approved Commissioner Stipends paid October 7

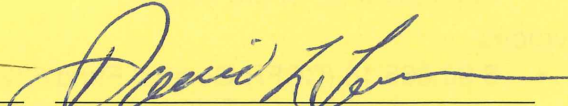
For September 1 – 30						
Name	Regular Meeting	Committee Meeting	Assn Meeting	Educ	Other	Total
Ayers	1					1
Bartel	1					1
Bourke	1					1
Chunn	1	1				2
Town	1					1

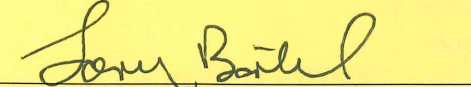
7. Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants
 - None

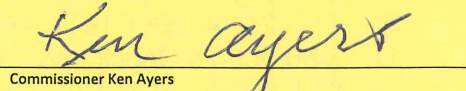


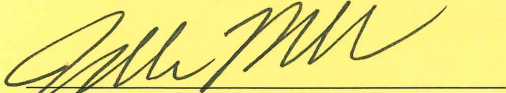
CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
CONSENT AGENDA
October 13, 2022


Commissioner Stanley Chunn – Chair


Commissioner David Town – Vice Chair


Commissioner Larry Bartel


Commissioner Ken Ayers


Vacant – Appointment Pending



Meeting Date

10/13/22

Stated purpose of this executive session:

- To consider matters affecting national security.
- To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate.
- To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease.
- To review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts.
- To receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee.
- To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment.
- To review the performance of a public employee.
- To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.
- To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency (present or via telephone conference) matters relating to agency enforcement actions.
- To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency (present or via telephone conference) litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party.
- To discuss collective bargaining negotiation strategies.

Meeting recessed at 1725 Hrs

Anticipated length of session 10 Mins

Announcement of extended session — Hrs

Anticipated extended length of session — Mins

Meeting resumed at 1735 Hrs

Action anticipated YES NO

Reference RCW Chapter 42.30