



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

April 27, 2023

Present:

Commissioners Stanley Chunn, Ken Ayers, Dave Town, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke.
Chief John Nohr. DVCs Mike Jackson and Ben Peeler.

DVC Jackson was excused to attend training at FDIC.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Chunn at 4:00 p.m.

Flag Salute.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS

Nohr added the oath of office for two new Captains. Commissioner Bartel added WFC Region 8 update.

Oath of Office taken by Captain Keith Graham and Captain Sean Kearns.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Bourke to approve the April 13 minutes as presented. Second Commissioner Ayers. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Nohr advised that the City of Ridgefield has sent an announcement of upcoming community events. Also, announcement from Ridgefield Junction Neighborhood Association meeting on May 15th at 1900 hours at Dollar Tree. CCFR will be in attendance. CCFR received a thank you card from FD6 Apparatus Mechanic Brad Osborn for hosting a WFC Fire Mechanic's spring conference/class at CCFR on April 24-25.

Chief Nohr reviewed a letter from Eric Cunningham at Washington Survey & Rating Bureau indicating that staffing at Station 151 is inadequate to receive a good protection class rating. Without more consistent staffing, residents in the area around Station 151 will see their insurance rating drop to a 9/9A, which will significantly impact insurance rates. WSRB wants an answer by 5/27 on future staffing plans.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

CHIEF UPDATES

Chief Nohr recapped the hiring open house held on April 15. Turn-out was good; BC Rommel noted an uptick in applicants after the open house. Good turnout by staff and specialty programs to demonstrate all the services provided by CCFR. New recruits at the Fire Academy continue to do well. BC Brett Graham has retired, nice send-off after his last shift. Recapped ilani hotel grand opening; Fire Marshal team spent considerable time assisting system testing; response plan in place.

Job offers have been made to candidates for Deputy Fire Marshal and Community Paramedic.

Requests for bids to repair rafters and concrete at Station 26 have been let out. CCFR will open bids on 5/28 at meeting.

CCFR will have organizational change placing DVC Peeler in Administrative Chief position to assist with policy/procedure creation and adoption, as well as creating an ambulance response program. In addition to regular Administrative Chief duties, DVC Peeler will serve as CAD/CRESA Liaison, regional EMS Committee, Wildland Coordinator and Fire Defense Committee representative. CCFR will recruit an internal candidate to fill the Operations position.

Commissioner Bourke asked about the potential leased space in La Center. Chief Nohr advised that DVC Jackson will have an update at the next meeting.

Chief Nohr recapped a conversation with Amelia Shelley from Ft. Vancouver Public Library regarding the upcoming Tax Increment Financing district in Ridgefield. The library district is also concerned about impacts of the TIF area. Nohr also spoke with Randy Mueller at the Port of Ridgefield. Director Mueller informed Chief Nohr that the Port of Ridgefield will be proposing a TIF on the waterfront and in downtown Ridgefield.

Chief Nohr and other Chiefs from the county will be making a presentation on Fire Impact Fees to the County Council on May 10th at 0900 hours at the County Public Service Center. Chalea Johanson has been gathering information to help complete the Capital Facility Plan.

POLICY REVIEW

DVC Peeler recapped the policies that were out for review. Commissioner Bourke asked about the staffing policy; DVC Peeler stated that the staffing policy reflects current staffing, and any updates will come after new recruits have transferred to the line. Motion by Commissioner Bourke to adopt policies 205, 207, 300, 325, and 704 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bartel. Motion passed unanimously.

STATION 151 UPDATE

Chief Nohr recapped information from FD6 Chief Maurer indicating that FD6 will not have personnel ready to staff Station 151 until September 1st; staffing it on July 1st will cost a little over \$100,000 in overtime for the two months and likely force mandatory shifts for personnel. Chief Maurer indicated that an August 1st start date would save half the OT. Chief Nohr spoke with WSRB about the potential delay; WSRB would hold off on the final decision on community rating. Proposed dates for a joint meeting discussed.

Commissioner Bartel expressed concern about delays to staffing. Commissioner Chunn asked if CCFR will be ready to staff on July 1. DVC Peeler confirmed that CCFR will have enough personnel but will need to use an Acting Captain at another station because the current promotional list is exhausted. Clarification that CCFR will not have personnel to staff an ambulance until later in the year; we will be targeting the hiring of 6 paramedics (lateral or entry) in September to give us enough personnel to staff the ambulance.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Oath of Office was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Commissioner Bartel gave an update from WFCA Region 8. The medical and dental plans are working well and running at 99.9% and 98% of budget; WFCA will need to spend \$100K to repair the elevator in the building owned by WFCA; the BVFF upgrade to \$350 per month pension has passed; the proposal to lift the annual increase to 103% of current levy did not pass; Fire District 3 will be running a levy lid lift this year; the 179th Street interchange has been funded in the current State budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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



Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief