



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

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**May 25, 2023**

Present:

Commissioners Stanley Chunn, Ken Ayers, Dave Town, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke.  
Chief John Nohr. BC Abe Rommel.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Chunn at 4:04 p.m.

Flag Salute.

## **CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS**

Commissioner Bartel asked for discussion on the Ridgefield TIA. Commissioner Town requested discussion on the meeting date and time. Commissioner Chunn added discussion regarding the joint meeting with FD6.

## **MAY 11 MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Bartel to approve the May 11 minutes as presented. Second Commissioner Town. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Cowlitz 1 invite to participate in the annual Ball Games. Discussion on whether insurance covered this event. Chief Nohr will look into.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Clark County Fire Risk Management Group**

No meeting. No report.

### **Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board**

No meeting. No report.

### **Finance Committee**

Commissioner Town advised he and Commissioner Bourke met with Kahty Streissguth and Chief Nohr earlier to review the 2022 annual report. This report is due to the State Auditor no later than 150 days after the end of the fiscal year (May 30). The committee recommends approving the report as prepared.

### **WFOA Region VIII – Bartel**

No meeting. No report.

### **Local BVFF**

No report. No report.

## Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Bartel shared that last week's SW Fire Commissioner Association was good. Several legislators attended and shared information. Planning for a fall meeting somewhere in Lewis County.

## CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Nohr advised the fire cadet graduation dinner will be held on June 2, 6:00 p.m. at Ridgefield High School. The 15 full-time recruits continue to do well at the academy. They participated in the live fire training event at the GOT MILK house in La Center earlier today. This is National EMS week. Personnel performed CPR demonstrations at Rosauers on Monday, May 22 and at the Woodland Safeway on Tuesday, May 23. Working with the City of La Center to finalize the lease for the CRR/CARES move. The city has approved modifications to the building. CCFR is managing the remodel. In answer to Commissioner Chunn's question regarding fencing at the Port property, Chief Nohr advised they are still looking into developing an agreement with the Port for long term use.

## LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

### Ridgefield Tax Increment Area / Tax Increment Financing

Commissioner Bartel expressed his concern that the district is not in the driver's seat with the TIA issue. Need to get someone involved to find out who knows about this. Suggested we get more information prior to holding a workshop to discuss. Chief Nohr advised he brought up the TIA issue at the Fire Chiefs conference in Wenatchee. Very few people know about it and there is very little information about how it works. They have no idea what the impacts might be. Legal counsel (Brian Snure) was on vacation until June 1 and not available to answer questions. An attorney from Foster Garvey was in attendance at the conference and shared there isn't but known about it. Only one district shared the City of Chelan is expected to approve a TIA that afternoon; he left conference early to attend the meeting. The city stonewalled them regarding mitigation and advised they'd get back to them when the project was completed to assess any impacts. There don't seem to be any experts out there – there isn't anything out there yet to look up. Commissioner Bartel recommended finding a lawyer or someone who can read through the legislation and figure out how it works. He reported that the Port of Ridgefield is also now considering a TIA in the southern area of the district and parts of Fire District 6. Confirmed the EMS levy is not a special levy and will be subject to TIF. Discussion. Chief Nohr will touch base with Snure to determine his willingness to work on this issue or if he can recommend another attorney.

## BID OPENING – STATION 26 REPAIRS

With the assistance of architect Karl Johannson, Logistics BC Rommel began opening the bids received for the Station 26 repairs at 4:24 p.m. Bids were opened in the order received.

|                                 | Base Bid Exterior Concrete | Base Bid Interior Work | Alt 1 Additional Pavement | Addend 1-3 | Non-Collusion | Non-Segregated Facilities | Bid Bond |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Construction Services Group LLC | \$268,511.00               | \$131,000.00           | \$38,000.00               | √√√        | √             | √                         | √        |
| Advanced Excavating Services    | \$250,000.00               | \$177,000.00           | \$28,000.00               | √√√        | √             | √                         | √        |
| Stateline LLC                   | \$190,000.00               | \$148,000.00           | \$30,000.00               | √√√        | √             | √                         | √        |
| C&J Contracting                 | \$144,575.00               | \$124,850.00           | \$18,452.00               | √√√        | √             | √                         | √        |

Motion by Commissioner Chunn to award the project to the lowest compliant bid following a full review of the bid documents by staff. Second Commissioner Bourke. Commissioner Town asked if the award is for the entire package. Johannson advised dependent on priority, the award may be one project or all three. Chief Nohr clarified it will still be one contractor – the award will not be split piecemeal. Commissioner Bartel asked if there were sufficient funds budgeted. Chief Nohr advised, he believes that yes, funds have been set aside for this work. He will confirm with Streissguth. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **Meeting Times/Dates**

Commissioner Town asked to have a discussion on why the Board meets at this time as there was a citizen request at the last meeting to hold the meetings in the evening to encourage public participation. Commissioner Chunn advised the meetings used to be at 3:00 p.m. and were moved to 4:00 p.m. to accommodate his work schedule. Chief Nohr added that holding the meeting in the afternoon also mitigates the need to incur the expense of OT for non-exempt employees or requiring staff to stay beyond the normal workday. Commissioner Bartel shared that Fire District 12 used to have evening meetings and recalled that public attendance was rare. Commissioner Chunn added that Fire District 2 also met in the evening, and no one ever attended. The public is always welcome to attend the meetings. Adding the virtual option since Covid didn't increase participation much. Discussed offering differing meeting days/times. Concern that moving the dates/times around might be confusing. There is also a requirement to establish the meeting times and days by resolution and ensure the public is advised of any changes. Chief Nohr will look into options for the next meeting. Commissioner Bartel recommended keeping it consistent.

### **Station 151 – Clark 6 Joint Meeting**

Commissioner Chunn made a request for meeting agenda items as the submission deadline is May 26. Currently have WSRB ratings, staffing, timelines, facility needs. Reminded everyone that Clark 6 is required to provide a 30-day notice to the union prior to any staffing changes. CCFR will be ready after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Chief Nohr has developed a proposal with a new 48/96 B/C shift that will mesh with the Clark 6 24/48 schedule. Discussion. Chief Nohr will add a TIA update. Discussed Clark 6's possible inability to begin staffing July. Would create OT issues. Confirmed we have sufficient personnel to staff a second shift at Station 151. Lengthy discussion on the staffing plan. The Clark 6 board did confirm that if CCFR staffs a second shift, they will staff the third. Affirmed CCFR is not pushing Clark 6 to incur significant OT costs by forcing them join us in July. That decision would be at their discretion. There is no issue with separate start times. Regardless, CCFR will have an additional staffed apparatus on the second shift starting July 1. Commissioner Bartel suggested CCFR cover the third shift when possible until Clark 6 can takeover. Chief Nohr advised Clark 6 would like to have a joint announcement on full-time staffing at the station. As the meeting room at Station 151 is not available, the joint meeting will be held at Clark 6 Station 63 in Salmon Creek.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Kathy Streissguth commented on the meeting time discussion: reminded everyone the City of Ridgefield also meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, which

would create a conflict should CCFR move its meeting time into the evening. Chief Nohr added that the City of Woodland council meetings are on the first and third Monday at 7:00 p.m., the City of La Center meets on the second and fourth Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., and the Port of Ridgefield meets on the second and fourth Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

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**Attest, John Nohr**  
**District Secretary/Fire Chief**