Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue
Clark County Fire District 6
Board of Fire Commissioners
Joint Workshop Minutes
Station 63 – 1303 NE 136th St, Vancouver WA 985685

May 31, 2023

Present:
Commissioners Stanley Chunn, Ken Ayers, Dave Town, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke. Chief John Nohr. DVCs Ben Peeler and Jackson. BC Abe Rommel.

Present for Clark 6:
Commissioners Chris Pfeifer, Rocky Haines, Brad Lothspeich. Chief Kristan Maurer. ACs David Russell and David Schmitt.

Workshop called to order by Commissioner Pfeiffer at 6:00 p.m.

Flag Salute.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
Commissioner Pfeifer stated citizens present may raise their hand with questions during the meeting. Those watching on the Fire District 6 YouTube channel may make comments or ask questions of the two Boards during the meeting in the chat section, which will be monitored.

NEW BUSINESS
Clark 6 AC Russell reported the two agencies have been working to develop an operational plan to staff Station 151 full time. Several implementation dates for full staffing are under consideration by each department.

Staffing Considerations
Clark 6 is unable to meet the proposed July 1 start date due to staffing challenges related to the County Fair and personnel shortages. Confirmed that each agency will utilize its own response engine and be responsible for its own maintenance, equipment, insurance, and fuel. Clark 6 has a reserve apparatus available to place at the station. Due to the difference in operations such as hose lays and equipment, it makes sense to operate two apparatus at this time. Eventually, it may be possible to work off of one apparatus.

Facility Needs
Physical modifications at the facility require Fairground Fire Facility Board (FFFB) approval. Some additional move-in updates are needed. The FFFB 2023 Budget has $80,000 allocated for capital expenditures. Some funds have already been expended to upgrade deficiencies. Remaining funds are likely needed to cover repairs, upgrades and equipment.

AC Russel advised the Clark 6 administration is recommending a September 1, 2023 staffing start date with an ALS engine. CCFR will cover two shifts with Clark 6 filling the third. Clark 6 has hired an additional six personnel who will complete a short academy during the month of August. AC Russell provided additional information related to Clark 6's summer staffing challenges. Implementing staffing of Station 151 before September 1 is expected to require OT, with instances of mandatory OT. He recapped the Clark 6 reasoning for delaying staffing until September 1. Clark 6 wishes to see a joint rollout for full-time staffing.

Discussion on managing differing start times for the two districts. CCFR starts at 0700 and Clark 6 at 0800. Chief Nohr advised that the crews would work the extra hour, which will be deducted from their debit time bank. CCFR crews work a 48/96 schedule with an AA shift crew currently assigned to Station 151. A new B/C shift will be created to cover the days between the CCFR AA shift and the Clark 6 shift (example):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
CLARK6	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
CCFR	AA	AA	BB	BB	CC	CC	AA	AA	BB	BB	CC	CC	AA	AA	BB
CCFR151				BC	BC					BC	BC				

Chief Nohr advised that Logistics BC Abe Rommel has been working with Station 151 Captain Ian Fagan to find ways to separate fire and police in the facility. CCSO is currently utilizing spaces next to a dorm. Late night disruptions by CCSO in the offices are an issue for crews attempting to sleep. BC Rommel reported that the dorms have been updated with three lockers. The current EMS room, which is ventilated, will be converted for PPE. A storage room that had been used by the Fire Marshal's office will be used for EMS supplies. A new door will be installed between the fire and law enforcement spaces in the building. Fire will reclaim the large double office in the hallway, which is currently occupied by CCSO. It will become the workout room for weights and cardio. BC Rommel has a Clark 6 "typical" equipment list to be procured. The room is not optimal; the group has identified the need for additional space should there be a remodel. The updates are estimated to cost $50,000. Continuing to work through access card issues. Chief Nohr stated that fire has reclaimed two full truck bays and all CCSO equipment has been moved to the third bay.

Staffing Start Dates

Chief Maurer reiterated Clark 6's desire for a September 1 start date. Chief Nohr advised CCFR is prepared to add the second shift July 9/10 after the 4th of July holiday. Commissioner Chunn commented that Clark 6's notification of a service imbalance started this project. CCFR has been kicking around the staffing idea since the station was built and has been working toward this goal. CCFR is extending a hand to Clark 6 to join in staffing Station 151 when they are ready. Due to the EMS levy and a massive hiring, CCFR will be able to meet the original timeline of July 1. He understands the huge financial impact for Clark 6 should they join CCFR in staffing in July. There is not an expectation for Clark 6 to staff the station before they are able. Commissioner Bartel asked why there couldn't be two start dates. Commissioner Pfeifer stated that is certainly an option. Commissioner Hanes said he is in favor of a joint date, but he is sensitive to requiring mandatory overtime during the summer months. He commented the path appears to be two start dates. Commissioner Bourke advised CCFR has discussed having a "quiet" second shift

staffing start, and then have a grand opening and press release when Clark 6 joins with the third shift. The Clark 6 commissioners indicated their appreciation.

WSRB Rating Information
Chief Nohr advised that the Washington Survey and Rating Board (WSRB) performed a protection class re-rating late last year. With the part-time staffing at Station 151, they downgraded ratings in the impacted area. Staffing the station full-time should improve the rating to a 4. WSRB informed Chief Nohr that the properties north of 179th Street would drop to a 9 or 9A due to the limited staffing at Station 151, resulting in increased insurance premiums. WSRB requested information on the staffing plan. Chief Nohr will contact WSRB to see what documentation is needed.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
Chief Nohr advised a new law has the potential to negatively impact fire jurisdiction's property tax revenue. Ports, cities and other jurisdictions may create a tax increment area (TIA) to fund capital infrastructure, effectively taking away new construction and improvement tax revenues from fire districts. The City of Ridgefield is proposing a 25-year TIA. This is a topic of discussion at the State Fire Chiefs level. The CCFR commissioners are very concerned. Commissioner Bartel stated the impact could be significant. Chief Nohr shared he sees this as one tax entity taking funding away from another. Discussion on the TIFs, the effect on fire districts, available options.

Commissioner Chunn expressed his appreciation for CCSO in working with the fire districts to allow us to take back some of the space that CCSO desperately needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief