



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

June 22, 2023

Present:

Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Ken Ayers, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke.
Chief John Nohr. DVC Mike Jackson. Logistics BC Abe Rommel.

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

Flag Salute.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you email from Kenny Bjur and the Volunteer Firefighters' Association for assistance with the Planter's Day fundraiser event.

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

No meeting. No report.

WFCR Region VIII – Bartel

No report.

Local BVFF

No meeting. No report.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Bourke expressed his appreciation for everyone's participation in the Planter's Day event.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Nohr attended a Clark County Council meeting to discuss fire impact fees in unincorporated Clark County. The Council authorized the issue to move forward and directed the County Manager to draw up the necessary language to be adopted into the County code. This is a big step forward. Notice from WSRB that the rating will improve to a Class 4 across the district. Will include in the press release when FD6 joins in staffing

St151. Attended the family day at the recruit academy at Camas Station 42. Several demonstrations – an impressive event. Graduation tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the ilani Resort. IAP developed for the 4th of July event in Ridgefield. Monitoring the weather conditions to determine the need for additional staffing on the holiday. Normal staffing is to add one brush unit. Discussed coverage in the east side of the district on Hwy 503 up to Gabriel Road and mutual aid with FD10. Beginning July 1, CCFR will be on the first alert for structure fires and second alert if within certain parameters. Both will be dispatched for car crashes.

Commissioner Chunn asked for an update on the 911 nurse navigation program. Chief Nohr advised that a report is due after 60 days of the program have been completed. Data to include a breakdown on the number of calls, the jurisdiction, and where the caller was referred. Summarized the process. Will provide when the report is available.

Update on the PeaceHealth communication advising they are interested in selling 1-2 acres of land adjacent to Station 21. Their real estate agent asked for a detail on the district's space needs. Requested authorization to initiate negotiation with PeaceHealth and/or their representatives. Noted that the needs of the district have grown over the years. More administrative space is needed. DVC Jackson advised that PeaceHealth needs specific information on what exactly is needed. Commissioner Bartel pointed out that authorization to proceed with negotiations was provided at the last meeting. Chief Nohr and DVC Jackson will move the project forward.

Reviewed a draft of the Annual Level of Service, Deployment Delivery and Response Times report to be compiled annually. Split out response times in the three cities and the unincorporated areas. The commissioners were asked to provide feedback prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Bourke pointed out that the definition of response time in the proposed report is different than that in Policy 306. If possible, would like to see reports for prior years. Suggestion to add graphics and review the third line in the Ridgefield section, which may not say what is wanted.

Commissioner Bourke was asked at the Planter's Day event about how to request an address sign. Chief Nohr advised the information may be on the website, but residents just need to call and request one. Staff will put it together for pick up at Station 21.

Chief Nohr advised that RCW 52.33.040 requires a performance measures annual evaluation and report. Policies 200 and 306 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

CITY OF RIDGEFIELD TIA UPDATE

Discussed the TIA workshop held during the last meeting. There are a number of concerned citizens, employees, and Board members. Meeting with Ridgefield City Manager Steve Stuart again on Monday, June 26 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the district's need for a significant commitment to a mitigation plan as outlined in the RCW. Would like to have something in place prior to their July 13 meeting. Compiling the data and believes it will easily show the impacts of growth in Ridgefield. Reaching out to FD6 for information on the impacts of larger commercial areas. Asked for questions and/or Board direction. Commissioner Bartel asked for more realistic figures on the financial impacts over the 25-year period. Chief Nohr would like to use a rate \$1.50 per thousand and continuance of the EMS levy for the calculations. Was interviewed by the Columbian which is covering this issue. Reaching out to other agencies to initiate discussion on the impacts to the other taxing agencies. Do not want to wait until there are as many as 14 TIA eligible opportunities within CCFR. Commissioner Bourke advised that the Port of

Woodland is also now looking at implementing a TIA. Chief Nohr suggested that all the fire service agencies and associations need to come together and strongly lobby for a change that either exempts, partially exempts, or requires mitigation of any TIAs. Nine have been submitted to the State Treasurer for review/approval. Will need to mitigate the threat to fire districts in providing service. Commissioner Bartel will bring the issue up at the next WFCA meeting. Would like to have data to support our concerns prior to the meeting. Advised that legal counsel has not responded to questions posed at the special meeting. Will contact Mr. Snure and follow up. Discussed the option of changing the district's funding to a benefit charge or operating levy. May shift funds away from the TIA and cost the city money. Loss of revenue might also impact their bond rating. Advised the TIA will be a regular agenda item until the issue is resolved.

Commissioner Chunn will send out an email encouraging all CCFR members and employees to attend the City of Ridgefield July 13 hearing on the TIA. The hearing is at 5:00 p.m. Planning to keep the CCFR July 13 Board meeting short so all may attend. Anyone interested in speaking must sign up ahead of time and will be limited to 3 minutes. Discussed recommendations for speaking. Commissioner Bartel would like to stick to the facts. Not there to fight, but to express concerns about impacts to the district.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Brigid Taylor shared that speakers may be able to yield their minutes to someone else.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Town thanked the administration for keeping everything running smoothly during Chief Nohr's vacation. Chief Nohr thanked DVCs Peeler and Jackson for keeping things going.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief