



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

February 22, 2024

Present:

Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Ken Ayers, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke. Chief John Nohr. ACs Mike Jackson and Eamonn Ryan. 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 Town to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Second Commissioner Bourke. Commissioner Bartel asked about the missing information on the VISA report. Receipts had not been received as of the post yet; information will be provided when received. Discussed the approval process for paid meetings. No further discussion. Call for the vote. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Commissioner Chunn to approve the upcoming City of Woodland and Port or Ridgefield meetings as eligible for compensation for those attending. Second Commissioner Town. Discussion. Chief Nohr advised the City of La Center invited the Chief to provide a district update. Will be similar to the Woodland presentation. Commissioner Bartel suggested that not all meetings be automatically compensable.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group – Bartel

No meeting, no report.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board – Chunn

No meeting, no report.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke

No meeting, no report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel

Legislative update. Tax increment financing proposed revisions bill in Ways & Means and needs to clear by Monday. Proposal to increase the annual property tax inflator to 103% is dead.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers

No meeting. No report.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke

Chief Nohr advised the CIT staff are in the process of gathering details on the improvements made since the completion of the garage. Values to be compiled and will be forwarded to the Chief. No meeting immediately forthcoming, but should have a number soon.

EMS District 2 – Bourke

No report.

Commissioner Updates

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Recapped the City of Woodland Council presentation. Will be tailoring the presentation for La Center City Council on March 13 at 6:30 p.m. Met with County Manager Kathleen Otto to discuss the upcoming ambulance contract. Shared the background of EMS District 2 and the transport contract process in Clark County. Advised her of the anticipated public subsidy and shared the message that this is not a fire district issue. She is meeting with City Manager Eric Holmes to discuss the contract. RFP should be out later this week. Based on information provided, the EMS D2 subsidy could be \$784,000 just to maintain the status quo – no service improvements. Vancouver's could be double that, which, per the VFD Chief Blue, the city is expecting to pay. They may also lose their franchise fee; received for managing the contract. Noted that one third of all EMS calls are in EMS District 2. Discussion. The fire districts have no direct input into the contact. Commissioner Bourke asked about the provision for transport by other agencies. The Port of Ridgefield Director has agreed to schedule a joint meeting with FD6, CCFR and the Port Commission. Date to be determined.

Chief Nohr advised he just received notice of a public hearing on unincorporated County fire impact fees on Tuesday, February 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Council meeting room.

TAX INCREMENT AREAS

Commissioner Bartel proposed sending two commissioners with the Chief to meet with legal counsel in person, after the Port of Ridgefield meeting, to discuss what our options may or may not be. What can be done? Discussion. Will compile questions for counsel for review. Commissioners Bartel and Town will participate. Chief Nohr will schedule the meeting. Chief Nohr advised the first Port public presentation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on February 28 at the new Port offices on Mill Avenue. Discussed rumors that the Port of Woodland is considering a tax increment area. Commissioner Bourke advised that the Port and City of Woodland reviewed a several-year-old growth study sponsored by the Port. No action was taken during the workshop. Funding options were listed and TIF was the last option on the list. The Port of Woodland is sensitive to the impacts of TIF and that it's not popular with the junior taxing districts. It will be a long time before anything would happen. Commissioner Town advised he will look into where the Port's taxing structure, impacted agencies, and also will attend future meetings. The Port meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

2023 ANNUAL RESPONSE TIME REPORT

Chief Nohr highlighted information in the report that is required by RCW. Future reports will have expanded information. Discussion. Will be posted on the website and forwarded to the cities.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Provided a report on what was accomplished with the last strategic plan. Updating the plan would have happened in 2023, but was postponed due to the large amount of new hires and onboarding last year. Chief Nohr will look into and recommends using a facilitator so he is better able to participate and not driving the discussion as much. Discussed the timeline. Anticipating meetings to occur in the Fall of 2024 and will encourage community participation.

LID LIFT PROPOSITION

Reviewed and discussed the Chief’s report for a primary election timeline. Discussion. Will be similar to the prior proposal to address capital, equipment, and personnel needs. Finance will compile projected labor costs. Noted that FD3 and ECFR are running lid lifts in the August primary, with FD6 discussing the same. Chief Nohr is recommending a repeat of the 106% inflator for 6 years. Confirmed for Commissioner Bourke that the capital facility plan will be completed first.

POLICY REVIEW

Policies reviewed at the last meeting. No changes were recommended. Motion by Commissioner Bourke to adopt the following policies:

- Policy No. 1026 Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace
- Policy No. 1009 Reporting for Duty
- Policy No. 1039 Military Leave

Second Commissioner Bartel. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ridgefield Mayor Jennifer Lindsay requested a copy of the annual response report. Received confirmation that the Ridgefield incidents figures are for the city limits. Brigid Taylor asked the Board to consider adopting the lid lift proposal after the school district election.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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



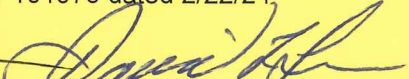
Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief




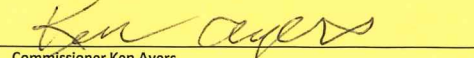
CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE CONSENT AGENDA February 22, 2024

1. Minutes
 - Board Meeting – February 8
2. Prepaid Invoices
 - \$ 37,667.61 (US Bank VISA Statement paid February 13)
 - i. \$ 36,085.11 EFT 414(CCFR Fund 6228)
 - ii. \$ 1,582.50 EFT 415 (FFFB Fund 6254)
3. Invoices
 - \$ 618.24 (CCFR General Fund 6228)
 - i. \$ 76.62 EFT 407 to be paid February 22
 - ii. \$ 541.62 Chk Nos. 101975 – 101980 dated February 22
4. Fund Transfers
 - \$ 25,000.00 Gen Fund 6228 to FFFB Fund 6254 FT February 1
5. Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants
 - 101360 dated 6/8/23 replaced by 101975 dated 2/22/24.


Commissioner Stanley Chunn – Chair


Commissioner David Town – Vice Chair


Commissioner Larry Barte


Commissioner Ken Ayers


Commissioner Jade Bourke