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

September 12, 2024

Present:
Commissioners Stanley Chunn, David Town, Ken Ayers, Larry Bartel, Jade Bourke.
Chief John Nohr. ACs Eamonn Ryan and Mike Jackson.

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

Flag Salute.

Oath of Office for Volunteer Firefighter/Support Ethan Oldham.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS
Commissioner Chunn requested that October/November dates, TIF, and station construction be added to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA
No minutes or consent agenda for this meeting due to staff absence/vacation.

COMMUNICATIONS
Received a notice from WFCA about the Region VIII dinner on October 3. Received a message from CWFD Division Chief Ford from a patient caretaker thanking the CARES team.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
Ridgefield City Councilwoman Katie Flavela introduced herself as the new council liaison to CCFR.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group – Bartel
The Risk Management Group had an emergency meeting on September 11 to discuss our renewal; VFIS making significant changes to the policy; Deductibles on apparatus are going up to $2,500 from $1,000; small equipment is going up to $1,000 from $500; The insurance company will no longer provide management Liability insurance for the group, which we must have; 3 major events cited as the possible reason for the changes; we are within 90 days of renewal, so everyone must stay in the group per the ILA; the group's agent is trying to get quotes from Provident, Enduris and the State pool; the Risk Management Group is going to hold another meeting on September 18 to look at options; this could include looking at another agent. The current renewal cost for CCFR will be $242,000. By staying in the group, we save $20,000 per year.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board – Chunn
September 11 meeting rescheduled to September 25.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
No report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
Region VIII dinner to occur on October 3 at the Toledo Senior Center; Commissioners Chunn, Bartel, Ayers, and Bourke indicated they will attend; Chief Nohr also to attend.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
No report.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke
No report.

EMS District 2 – Bourke
EMS 2 met on September 9; creating by-laws, as they haven't had them before; want to expand the existing board to five members from three by adding another city representative and, if legally allowable, one of the fire district chiefs; also looking to set up a workgroup consisting of representatives from each fire district, the cities, and the MPD office to look at ambulance response; they are holding off on hiring a system consultant until the fire districts can research further; County attorney did research and shows that the EMS fine money can be used for a wide variety of items, and not just equipment for the fire districts; EMS 2 authorized the purchase of MDCs for the fire districts, as well as a computer program to analyze responses and station location; next meeting on October 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Port of Ridgefield – Bartel
Projecting $30,000 from TIF this year from CCFR and District 6; taking derelict boats out of Lake River; discussion that the lowest tide of the year coming this weekend.

Port of Woodland – Town
The Port now owns and runs an RV park on the Columbia waterfront; new lease of property at Rose Way; grant to look at fixing the City of Woodland building on Davidson; TIF schedule is on their website; probably will try to adopt TIF by February 1.

Commissioner Updates
None.

STAFF REPORTS

Operations/Training – AC Ryan
Working on budget, meeting with program coordinators; Ridgefield was going to close Pioneer Street but has now cancelled so we will have better access; attended La Center City Council, noted that the card rooms are now generating revenue for the city again; Commander Sample from CCSO is the law enforcement rep to La Center; Phase II testing for our last group of probationers.

Community Risk Reduction/CARES – AC Jackson
AC Jackson reported that he invited the Ridgefield City Council to attend the Camas-Washougal FD Open House on 9/28 to see a side-by-side fire sprinkler

demonstration; summarized fee collections so far this year; thanked CRR staff for their work on the Costco project, as well as the Costco project team for their commitment to working with CRR; 95 inspections last month, including new tobacco shop on the Cowlitz Indian Reservation; DFM Lackey now has his Fire Plans Examiner certification, which helps with workload; PIO team is doing well with social media engagement, with our Face Book page reaching over 50,000 people last month; increasing presence on Tik Tok and Instagram; working with partner agencies on the CARES team, incorporating everyone's logo into information; on-boarding a new mental health professional to the team; CARES responses summarized; working on the roll out of overdose responses in an effort to get people into appropriate care through Medication Assisted Treatment.

Admin/Logistics – AC Peeler
Chief Nohr provided a brief Administration Services report; AC Peeler is working on the ambulance business plan and billing; moving to a local IT service provider; the second new ambulance has been ordered, two new fire engines in the production queue for delivery in 2026. Will be testing for BC and entry level firefighter, as we currently have three vacancies and would like to hire three additional if the budget allows to reduce overtime and mandatory callbacks.

CHIEF'S REPORT
Chief Nohr summarized his report, including recent drowning incidents, Costco grand opening, and Tax Increment Financing. R-21 transported a trauma victim due to AMR at Level 0; crew estimated it saved 45 minutes by getting the patient to the hospital sooner.

Chief Nohr proposed a written quarterly report to Commissioners with a verbal update each month; the quarterly reports would then be sent out to anyone wanting our reports.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
October/November Meeting Dates
Commissioner Chunn asked about cancelling the second October meeting due to WFCA Conference, changing November dates to the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, and changing December meetings to 1st and 3rd Thursdays with the option to cancel second December meeting if no business. Discussion. Board agreed to changes.

Construction Schedule
Chief Nohr met with Ridgefield City Manager Steve Stuart and property brokers to consider how to move forward on property purchase; Manager Stuart committed to use bonded revenue beyond the property cost to assist with construction, up to $2M. City still wants to purchase CCFR property on Hillhurst. Met with Jim Nelson of DA Davidson on LTGO bond costs; he advised that at current interest rates, the cost would be $70,000 per year per $1M borrowed (20-year payback); it takes 3 to 6 months to go through the process. CCFR needs to do an RFQ for architect per RCW; We did several years ago, and Johanson Wing was chosen; it's time to do that process again. The City of Woodland has split the Station 29 property and will be transferring station ownership to CCFR. Chief Nohr indicated that a project manager will be needed as current staff does not have capacity or expertise for building fire stations; Commissioner Bartel indicated that the District saved money when building Station 151. The property adjacent to Station 21 has been surveyed; waiting on results of survey; property owner has given CCFR one more month for the property to close. Commissioners indicated

that obtaining property and building the fire stations be the highest priority of the District. Chief Nohr indicated we are waiting on County GIS to provide response maps for locations being considered.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None.

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

Attest, John Nohr
District Secretary/Fire Chief