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

September 25, 2025

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

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 Bourke to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Second Commissioner Town. Discussed Uber charges. Expenditures are authorized under the CARES program funding agency guidelines. An ice machine was purchased to produce bulk ice for heat mitigation during the hotter months. Commissioner Bartel noted the minutes did not include the 2025 TIF allocation amounts as he requested. The figures were $79,792 from the General Fund and $9,381 from the EMS Levy Fund for a total of $89,173. The full allocation is to the City of Ridgefield as the Port of Ridgefield will receive nothing in 2025. As the discussion was recorded here, there was no recommended change to the September 11 minutes. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS
Chief Nohr advised that Fire District 3 is willing to meet. Options will be provided to the Board members and a date scheduled. CCFR will host five weeknight CRESA EMD emergency preparedness CERT classes in October.

COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT
Ridgefield Council Member Katie Favella provided an update on the City's activities. They are working on the Envision Ridgefield plan. The Pioneer Street closures should be over following installation of streetlights, landscaping and striping. The N 32nd Avenue park improvement groundbreaking will be held from 4-6pm on October 15.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

STANDING COMMITTEES
Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
Commissioner Bartel advised the group will meet in person on September 30 to discuss/approve the policy renewal.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
No report.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
No report.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
No report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
The Region 8 meeting will be held on October 6 at the Cowlitz County 911 Center.

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

EMS District 2 – Bourke
Commissioner Bourke summarized the September 15 meeting. Working on rates for 2026 and negotiating the AMR service contract.

Port of Ridgefield
Chief Nohr attended the meeting in Commissioner Bartel's absence and met the Port Director Ethan Perry. The Port executed an MOU with a contractor for design of the waterfront.

Commissioner Updates
Commissioner Bourke shared a request from the American Legion for a fire department presence at the Veteran's Day remembrance ceremony at Overlook Park in Ridgefield on November 11.

CHIEF'S REPORT
Chief Nohr thanked everyone for their generous support of the North County Foodbank Goat Yoga fundraiser. Discussed the Captain's testing held jointly with FD6. 5 candidates from CCFR and 4 from FD6. Stated it is good to be working with our partner agencies and be able to receive impartial feedback on our candidates. Expressed thanks to AC Peeler and BC Leavitt for coordinating with FD6. Several units are out on wildland mobilizations and there have been several in-district grass fires. Things will remain dry until there is significant rainfall. Received healthcare insurance information from WFCA. Discussed the anticipated premium cost increases of 15% for the WFCA PPO plan and 7.5% for the Kaiser plan. Discussed the Lifescan program being promoted by WFCA. A minimum of 45 participants (employees and/or family members) are required. There is a participant cost. May coordinate with FD6. Standard of Cover status update. Citygate is putting the final touches on the report. Chief Nohr received a draft copy this morning. Will review and report at the next meeting.

Commissioner Town left the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

AC Jackson provided information on the planned activities during Fire Prevention Week in October. Thanked Maureen Groat and Hailey Landon for their efforts in coordinating the schedule. CARES 21 is planned to move to a 24/7 service schedule on October 1. Should have the endorsement in place sometime in the coming weeks. Provided an update on 988 mental health services countywide.

Chief Nohr advised that long-time WFCA Healthcare Director Anne Deligeannis has resigned. Director Roger Ferris will assume the role until a replacement is hired. Noted that the self-funded insurance plan is financially secure.

DRAFT POLICY REVIEW
AC Peeler advised there are none to present at this time.

TAX INCREMENT AREAS – UPDATE
Another TIF stakeholders' meeting was held in Olympia on Monday, September 22. Chief Nohr and Commissioner Bartel attended in person, while Finance Manager Kathy Streissguth attended remotely. Chief Nohr provided a brief summary of those attending and a meeting recap. Mr. Martin Shook presented information on how TIF is supposed to work, the financial impacts on affected agencies, and how they are to be "made whole." The group discussion is ongoing. The next meeting will be on October 28 to brainstorm mitigation options. Our legal counsel shared the opinion that the impacted agencies should have the ability to opt out. Commissioner Bartel shared several mitigation ideas he had: Ensure the affected agencies are held harmless, define the "but for" argument, tighten funding regulations, clarify when the TIA will end, better definition of mitigation, and provide for the ability to opt in/out. A meeting has been scheduled for October 14 between affected districts and legislators. Further discussion on TIF calculations and mitigation opportunities.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Moved to executive session at 4:40 p.m. to discuss the selection and acquisition of real estate. Anticipated length of session 20 minutes. No action anticipated.

Meeting resumed at 5:00 p.m.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief / District Secretary