Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue
Board of Fire Commissioners
Workshop Minutes
Clark County Fire District 5 Administrative Center
11606 NE 66th Street Vancouver, WA 98662

December 2, 2025

The Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners attended the regularly scheduled meeting of the Clark County Fire District 5 Board of Fire Commissioners on Tuesday December 2, 2025 for a joint workshop.

In attendance for Fire District 5: Commissioners Roy Rhine, Mike Lyons, and Ron Gibson. District Administrator Jennifer Bethke, Deputy District Administrator Chris Cohen, Vancouver Fire Department Acting Fire Chief Nathan Leek.

In attendance for CCFR: Commissioners Stan Chunn, David Town, Jade Bourke, and Larry Bartel. Chief John Nohr.

Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by CCFD5 Commissioner Rhine. Introductions. Commissioner Chunn thanked the FD5 Board for allowing attendance. At Commissioner Rhine's request, it was determined that the commissioners would have open discussion during the Citizens' Communication portion of the meeting.

CCFD5 CHIEF'S REPORT
Acting Chief Leek gave an update on the updated VFD capital facilities plan; the plan calls for a new fire station on the waterfront and a new station in the St. Johns Road area; Acting Chief Leek also gave an update on the fire chief hiring process.

WORKSHOP
Commissioner Bartel opened the discussion by asking how the contract between CCFD5 and the City of Vancouver works. The FD5 commissioners explained that the contract had been in effect since 1994 with good results. Commissioners Lyons and Rhine expanded on how the district had been paying too much in the early years but had worked out an amendment that allows for a more equitable payment process. Commissioner Rhine explained that FD5 pays roughly 22% of the VFD budget each year; the remainder of the annual tax revenue is held in a reserve account for FD5. Money from the reserve account has been used in past years to purchase apparatus and build a fire station for VFD. Commissioners discussed a Regional Fire Authority information session hosted by Local 452 on December 6th in Vancouver. The commissioners agreed that more information may become available on how all fire departments in the county can work more closely together after the RFA training.

Commissioner Rhine requested an update on tax increment financing and how it is impacting fire districts. Chief Nohr spoke at length on the history of TIF in

Washington and how CCFR in particular has been dealing with the implementation of TIF. Chief Nohr also spoke of CCFR's participation in a statewide stakeholder workgroup that is looking at ways to make legislative improvements to the TIF law to reduce impacts on junior taxing districts.

Chief Nohr also spoke about the history of the CCFR CARES program and how it now serves most of Clark County, including CCFD5 and VFD areas, with acute mental health co-response.

At the end of the Citizens Communication session, Commissioner Rhine determined that the CCFD5 Board would take a short break before resuming the regular agenda.

The CCFR commissioners thanked the FD5 commissioners for the opportunity to meet and discuss common areas of interest.

Commissioner Rhine announced a five-minute break at 6:40 p.m.

The CCFR commissioners and Chief Nohr exited the meeting.

Workshop adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief / District Secretary