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

December 18, 2025

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Chunn at 4:02 p.m.

Flag Salute.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS
None.

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Commissioner Bourke to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by Commissioner Bartel. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS
None.

COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT
Ridgefield Councilor Katie Favela provided an update on city activities. The city has requested financial support from the State for the I-5 access project, Pioneer Street lighting, and a playground structure – may pursue private grants. Advised the hardware store has closed. The Ridgefield Art Association will have a gallery in the vacated space.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group
No report.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board
No report.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke
The committee met earlier to review the proposed 2025 budget amendment and is recommending adoption of the resolution to be presented.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers
The local board met to review and approve the notice of retirement for George Lingle, who had 50 years of combined volunteer and career service with CCFR.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel
Commissioner Bartel advised the Association is still working on locating a replacement for the Executive Director.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke
Chief Nohr advised he spoke with Ms. Russin who recognizes the need to meet soon to address the contract rate based on the additional properties being placed into trust. They are also discussing the possibility of an additional equipment purchase.

EMS District 2 – Bourke
December 8 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. AMR will honor the proposed contract with an effective date of January 1; the signing will occur at the next EMSD2 meeting.

Port of Ridgefield
Commissioner Bartel attended the December 17 Port meeting. Going forward there will be one regular meeting and two scheduled workshops each month. The Port is investigating a solar project in cooperation with CPU, revenues to be used to support low-income residents. There is a tri-Port meeting on January 29.

Commissioner Updates
None.

CHIEF'S REPORT
Chief Nohr shared he met with the land brokers earlier this week to discuss various issues. Will meet with the City of Ridgefield to discuss next steps. Appraisal will be complete the first of January. The mitigation agreement with the city stated that property was to be transferred to the District by December 31, 2025. As we are in the process of acquiring property, their attorney will provide language that recognizes that and to push the date out to allow for the property to be purchased. Continue to meet with the architect to work on the Station 29 build out project. Discussed the proposed change in legislation to allow Fire Districts partially overlaid by an EMS District the ability to run an EMS in the remainder of the district. This is an issue in Clark Fire District 3. This will be a WFCA priority and on the agenda for Legislative Day.

Attended the December 6 RFA information event sponsored by IAFF 452. Representatives from Locals 452 and 3674, Clark Fire Districts 3, 5, 6, CCFR, and Vancouver Fire. Commissioner Bartel expressed concern about the potential to lose the CCFR transport license by joining an RFA. Will require further investigation should an RFA be something we would want to pursue.

Update on all the holiday events CCFR personnel attended month to date. Recognized Captain Brooks and his crew for stopping by Candy Cane Lane. Working

through the insurance process for the boathouse fire. Report that working with VFIS on this incident has been a positive experience. Shared that Kathy Winters from the Ridgefield Art Association who gave a brief presentation at the December staff meeting regarding the new art gallery project. 10 years ago, for her 80th birthday she ran an 80 for 80 fundraising event to raise $80,000 for the new library building. This year she's running a 90 for 90 (hundred) to raise $9,000 for the gallery. We don't usually invite outside presentations to these meetings, but you just can't turn down a 90-year-old resident requesting support for the community.

TAX INCREMENT AREAS – UPDATE
Summarized the stakeholder meeting held on December 12. The lobbyists and lawyers are still working to polish the language. Most of the changes have been agreed to – the fire service got most of their requests. EMS levies should be exempted from TIF.

2026 FEE SCHEDULE – RESOLUTION NO. 251218-1
Reviewed the updated fee schedule for 2026. Motion by Commissioner Bartel to adopt Resolution No. 251218-1, a resolution setting the 2026 CCFR fee schedule. Second Commissioner Bourke. Fire marshal service/community risk reduction fees will increase 5% rounded to the nearest $5, with no change to the residential fire sprinkler fee. Transport fees are equal to those charged by AMR. No changes to other administrative fees. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT – RESOLUTION NO. 251218-2
Following a recommendation by the finance committee, motion by Commissioner Bourke to adopt the budget amendment as presented in Resolution No. 251218-2. Second Commissioner Town. Commissioner Bourke commented that after reviewing the budget and the serious number of one-time projects, staff has done a wonderful job managing the budget. Chief Nohr advised the budget mostly was realigned. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bartel asked if in the 2026 budget we plan to use the program FD6 is using to get personnel prioritized for medical treatment. Chief Nohr advised that FD6 said it doesn't work as fast as thought, but worth revisiting. We do want people to get back to work as soon as possible. Briefly discussed the L&I Return to Work program. Noted that hourly rates are going up $0.28 per hour in 2026.

Revamping several administrative positions for 2026. Will be realigning work to the various positions. AC Jackson was able to get 50% funding for a CARES contract administrator. There is a need for this on the CCFR side. Will be adding another FTE. Chief Nohr advised we have spent many years focusing on hiring firefighters allowing us to move to 3 and sometimes 4-person engines. We have really put a strain on our admin staff. Other than Shannon Johnson's accounting assistant position, we have not added fire side support staff. We've been running pretty lean. The better service we can provide internally is better for both the public and the employees.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
None.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief / District Secretary

Clark-Cowlitz
FIRE RESCUE

CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
CONSENT AGENDA
December 18, 2025

1. Minutes
   - Clark Fire District 5 Joint Workshop – December 2
   - Board Meeting – December 4
2. Prepaid Invoices
   - USBank VISA Stmt Ending December 8 paid December 15
     i. $ 29,260.69 EFT 3618 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     ii. $ 2,262.21 EFT 3619 (FFFB Fund 6254)
   - WA DOL Driver Record
     i. $ 15.00 EFT No.3617 paid December 11
3. Current Invoices
   - $ 2,493.75 (Capital Fund 6224)
     i. Chk No. 104363 dated December 18
   - $ 2,252.03 (FFFB Fund 6254)
     i. Chk No. 104362 dated December 18
   - $ 469,741.98 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 461,803.48 Chk Nos. 104316 – 104361 dated December 18
     ii. $ 7,938.50 ACH Nos. 3668 – 3673 to be paid December 19
4. Payroll
   - November 1 - 30 paid December 8
     i. $1,257,191.69 Gross Payroll
     ii. $ 956,311.38 (net)
     iii. $ 163,615.02 Tax Deposit EFT
   - November 1 - 30 paid December 10 (Corrections)
     i. $ 3,507.84 Gross Payroll
     ii. $ 3,328.30 (net)
     iii. $ 136.27 Tax Deposit EFT
   - November Payroll Benefits
     i. $ 450,156.48 Chk Nos. 23038 – 23047 dated December 5
     ii. $ 81,918.86 ACH 3559 paid December 8
     iii. $ 113.82 Chk No. 23048 dated December 10
5. Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants
   - None

Commissioner Stanley Chunn – Chair

Commissioner David Town – Vice Chair

Commissioner Larry Bartel

Commissioner Ken Ayers

Commissioner Jade Bourke