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

January 8, 2026

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

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

Flag Salute.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS
Executive session regarding real property acquisition negotiations. No action anticipated.

2026 OFFICERS
Commissioner Bourke nominated Commissioner Chunn for Chair. Second Commissioner Town. Call for the vote. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bourke nominated Commissioner Town for Vice Chair. Second Commissioner Bartel. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

2026 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
Reviewed the 2026 committee assignments.

- Clark County Fire Risk Management Group – Bartel
- FFFB – Chunn; Alternate Town
- Finance – Town and Bourke
- BVFF – Chunn and Ayers; Alternate Town
- Cowlitz Tribe Liaison – Bartel, Alternate Bourke
- EMS District 2 Liaison – Bourke, Alternate Bartel
- Port of Ridgefield Liaison – Bartel, Alternate Town

Motion by Commissioner Town to establish the 2026 committee assignments as discussed. Second Commissioner Ayers. Advised the Springbrook charge is for the accounting and payroll software used by the district. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

COMMUNICATIONS
Thank you message from Neighbors Helping Neighbors for assistance to the foodbank. Notice from Treasurer Topper regarding Clark County's policy changes related to the discontinuation of the penny.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

City of Ridgefield Councilmember Katie Favela advised things were quiet at the city over the holidays. Four recently elected council members, the mayor, and the mayor pro-tem will be sworn in at tonight's meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Clark County Fire Risk Management Group

No report.

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board

No report.

Finance Committee – Town/Bourke

No report.

Local BVFF – Chunn/Ayers

No report.

WFCA Region VIII – Bartel

No report.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Contract Liaison Bartel/Bourke

No report.

EMS District 2 – Bourke

Next meeting January 12.

Port of Ridgefield

No report.

Commissioner Updates

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Nohr congratulated Commissioner Bourke as the Post 44 Legionnaire of the Year and his outstanding community service. Update on the polished concrete flooring project at St21. Reviewed the hiring status of the multiple positions. Offer of conditional employment made for the Payroll Assistant. Scheduled interviews next week for the HR Manager. The Finance Manager position is open. Additional positions to be posted are the Logistics Support Technician, Administrative Assistant, and the Contracts Coordinator. The primary focus has been line firefighter and paramedic staffing for several years. We are now working on right sizing the administrative support side of the department to keep up with all the growth. Update on the L&I violation from the June 2025 trench rescue incident. An appeal has been filed which includes reasoning for the response and mitigation procedures for future incidents. Anticipating a reduction in the $3,672 fine. Update on the WFCA Legislative Day scheduled for January 29. Commissioner Bartel and Chief Nohr will attend. AC Dave Russell will be sworn in as the new Clark 6 fire chief on January 29. Update on language modifications to the TIF legislation. Working

with local legislators on a change to EMS levy restrictions that will benefit Clark Fire District 3; adding a provision that would districts partially covered by an EMS levy to be able to run one in the remaining area of their district. Met with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe representatives today; they took possession of the new ambulance on December 31. Will schedule the rig to be outfitted following the blessing ceremony. Advised they are looking at various equipment grant opportunities on behalf of CCFR. Will be working on the recruiting process for the four budgeted firefighter positions. Chief Nohr he advised he has met with the labor group to discuss the creation of a 12-hour shift firefighter/paramedic position to enable staffing of a second ambulance. May implement in the third quarter this year. Confirmed there is no public subsidy to AMR in the new contract for EMS District 2 to start January 1, 2026. The City of Vancouver contract includes a public subsidy, which reduces the transport rates within the city limits. Quarterly staff reports will be presented at the next meeting. PointNorth is assisting with the public facing chief's report, annual report, and ambulance service press release.

Commissioner Bartel asked about the timeline for the Woodland St29 build. Anticipating the groundbreaking to occur sometime in October. Working on the general obligation bonding process and will set a timeline for debt issue. Anticipating a $20 million bond.

The 2024 financial audit by the State Auditor is complete and posted.

Commissioner Bartel asked about the timeline for the Ridgefield St24 build. Advised the land purchase needs to be finalized. The architect is recommending staggering the builds by a few months. The process for St29 is a few months ahead of that for Ridgefield.

No update on the Strategic Plan at this time. CitiGate has been focused on completing the Standard of Cover.

TAX INCREMENT AREAS – UPDATE
No report. Following discussion, this item will be removed as a standing agenda item. Will add when relevant.

CITY OF RIDGEFIELD MITIGATION ILA AMENDMENT
Chief Nohr reviewed the proposed modification to the tax increment financing interlocal agreement which originally set the deadline to acquire property for CCFR as December 31, 2025. Motion by Commissioner Bartel to approve the ILA amendment with the City of Ridgefield to extend the property purchase deadline to April 30, 2026 with Chief Nohr authorized to sign the agreement. Second Commissioner Bourke. Brief discussion outlining that these are funds set aside by the for mitigation. Motion passed unanimously.

LATE EDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved to executive session at 4:35 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations and the purchase of real estate. Anticipated length of session is 20 minutes with the meeting to resume at 4:55 p.m. Agenda item 15, Local 3674 Battalion Chief Bargaining Unit Contract removed from the agenda. No action anticipated on either item to be discussed. Meeting resumed at 4:55 p.m.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Attest, John Nohr
Fire Chief/District Secretary

Clark-Cowlitz
FIRE RESCUE

CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
CONSENT AGENDA
January 8, 2026

1. Minutes – 2025
   - Board Meeting – December 18
2. Prepaid Invoices – 2025
   - $ 16,149.00 (Capital Fund 6224)
     i. ACH No. 3769 paid December 31
   - $ 40,345.12 (FFFB Fund 6254)
     i. Chk Nos. 104398 – 104406 dated December 31
   - $ 106,893.12 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 71,479.41 Chk Nos. 104364 – 104397 dated December 31
     ii. $ 35,413.71 ACH Nos. 3721 – 3725 paid December 31
   - $ 2,727.77 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. Chk Nos. 104407 – 104409 dated December 31
3. Prepaid Invoices – 2026
   - $ 23,65117 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. ACH Nos. 1 – 3 paid January 2
4. Current Invoices – 2026
   - $ 75,299.27 (CCFR Fund 6228)
     i. $ 46,946.47 Chk Nos. 104410 – 104433 dated January 8
     ii. $ 2,465.41 EFT 116 paid January 8
     iii. $ 25,887.39 ACH 141 – 143 to be paid January 9
5. Approved Commissioner Stipends

Month of December paid January 8						
Name	Board Meeting	Committee Meeting	Assn Meeting	Educ	Other	Total Paid
Ayers	1					1
Bartel	3	2				5
Bourke	3					3
Chunn	3					3
Town	3					3

6. Payroll
   - December Payroll Benefits – 2025
     i. $ 9,715.51 ACH 3717 paid December 30 (UNUM Disability & Life)
     ii. $ 1,411.29 Chk No. 104409 (WA DRS NLEC)
   - December 1 - 31 paid January 8
     i. $1,290,149.15 Gross Payroll
     ii. $ 849,635.85 (net)
     iii. $ 161,725.09 Tax Deposit EFT 115
   - December Payroll Benefits – 2026
     i. $ 492,493.59 Chk Nos. 23050 – 23059 dated January 7
     ii. $ 93,222.30 ACH 145 paid January 7

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7. Use Tax
    - $ 196.86 CCFR December Use Tax paid January 9
8. Voided/Destroyed Claims Warrants
    - 104392 Duplicate Payment – Charged to VISA
    - 104395 Duplicate Payment – Double Invoiced

Commissioner Stanley Chunn – Chair

Commissioner David Town – Vice Chair

Commissioner Larry Bartel

Commissioner Ken Ayers

Commissioner Jade Bourke