



**VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
SPECIAL GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
1101 D Street NE
AUBURN, WASHINGTON
October 29, 2019**

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Leanne Guier called the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) Board of Governance Special Board Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., at the VRFA Headquarters, located at 1101 D Street NE, Auburn, Washington.

A. Flag Salute

Chair Guier led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call

Chair Leanne Guier, Vice-Chair Dave Hill, Member Claude DaCorsi, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Troy Linnell, Member Lynda Osborn, and Member Pro-Tem Katie Garberding.

Member Nancy Backus and Member Bill Pelozo excused.

Staff members present included: Fire Chief/Administrator Brent Swearingen, Deputy Chief Dave Larberg, Deputy Chief Brad Thompson, Chief Financial Officer Mark Horaski, and Clerk of the Board Louise Bartol.

II. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Presentation of 2020 Preliminary Operating, Capital Project and Debt Service Fund Budgets

Chief Financial Officer Horaski provided an overview of the preliminary 2020 General, Debt Service and Capital Project Fund Budgets for the Board's consideration. Highlights included:

- 2019 overall budget has been tracking positive compared to expectations which will result in a higher than expected fund balance at the end of the year.
- The two primary goals we entered into the budget process for 2020 are:
- 1) we want to give back to our citizens; and 2) we want to invest in our future.

- With the goal of giving back to our citizens we are proposing to keep the fire benefit charge flat from 2019 to 2020 which will get our FBC percentage of operational expenditures back below 50%.
- We will be receiving in 2020 a federal assistance to firefighter grant recently awarded which will fund 90% of our bunker gear replacement and extrication equipment.
- Major driver of wage growth is increased seniority of our employees and longevity premiums associated with that.
- A tentative agreement has been reached on the Firefighter/Captain collective bargaining agreement and is awaiting approval by their members.
- Medical insurance growth is at the lowest level we have seen in years which results in overall growth in the benefits category to 4% which lines up with wage growth.
- The purchase of an electronic Knox box program is an investment in our future as it will allow for immediate reprogramming if theft or loss occurs which will result in substantial savings is a key is lost and all Knox boxes and keys need to be replaced.
- Service expenditures include: 1) cost of special election currently planned to be held in February; 2) annual increase to West Hill service contract with South King Fire & Rescue; 3) increase for fleet and apparatus repairs, and 4) increase in our participation cost for the South King County Fire Training Consortium.
- Capital Projects Fund Budget includes costs associated with the replacement of non-repairable or upgradable apparatus computer terminals (MDC) and modernization of our Station 31 alerting system which is antiquated.

Discussions ensued.

In closing, Chief Swearingen stated that these proposed budgets continue our history of being conservative while still being forward looking. He expressed appreciation to CFO Horaski and the others for putting the budget together.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2019.


Leanne Guier
Chair


Louise Bartol
Clerk of the Board