



**VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
1101 D Street NE
AUBURN, WASHINGTON
December 10, 2019**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Leanne Guier called the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) Board of Governance Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 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, Member Nancy Backus, Member Claude DaCorsi, Vice-Chair Dave Hill, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Troy Linnell, Member Lynda Osborn, Member Bill Pelozza and Member David Storaasli.

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

C. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations

Chief Swearingen acknowledged this as the last meeting for Member Pelozza. On behalf of the VRFA he expressed his appreciation to Member Pelozza for always being engaged and active in the VRFA and an inspiration to others. A plaque was presented to Member Pelozza commemorating his years of service.

Also recognized for her years of service was Louise Bartol, Clerk of the Board who will be leaving the VRFA in January. Chief Swearingen expressed his appreciation for the work she has done and for being a friend of the fire service. A plaque was presented to Ms. Bartol commemorating her years of service.

D. Appointments

There were no appointments.

E. Agenda Modifications

There were no agenda modifications.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS, CITIZEN INPUT, AND CORRESPONDENCE**A. Public Hearings**

There were no public hearings.

B. Audience Participation

This is the place on the Agenda where the public is invited to speak to the Governance Board on any issue. Those wishing to speak are reminded to sign in on the form provided.

There was no audience participation.

C. Update from IAFF Local #1352

Reed Astley, IAFF Local #1352 President provided the following update:

- Expressed appreciation for the work Jesse Mitchell has done as Political Liaison. Mitchell will be stepping down and Firefighter Jordan Gustafson will be assuming that role for IAFF Local #1352.
- The Local is in full support of the Collective Bargaining Agreement which is being presented to the Board of Governance for approval this evening. It was a collaborative process and is pleased with the final result.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the Board's consideration.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Finance Committee**

Chair Lynda Osborn stated that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommends Claims and Payroll for approval by the Board. In addition, they recommend approval of Resolution No. 155 ~ 2019 Budget Amendment, Resolution No. 156 ~ Authorization for Special Election, and the FF, Captain, etal. Collective Bargaining Agreement.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

At this time the Chair and Board Members may report on significant activities since the last regular meeting, inquire on matters of general fire authority business, or initiate investigation or action on a matter of concern.

Member Peloza provided an update on a recent derailment of an oil tanker in Canada.

V. STAFF REPORTS**A. Administration**

Chief Swearingen provided the following update:

- The Strategic Plan is near completion and will be presented to the Board of Governance in January for review and adoption.

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered by the Governance Board to be routine and may be approved by one motion.

A. Minutes

1. Minutes of the November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting were reviewed.
2. Minutes of the November 13, 2019 Special Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers**1. Claims**

Check numbers 206289 through 208360 in the amount of \$678,691.46, and electronic payments in the amount of \$1,333,200.00, totaling \$2,011,891.46, dated December 11, 2019 were reviewed.

2. Payroll

Payroll check numbers 99607 through 99609 in the amount of \$15,594.59, and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$1,591,368.36 for a grand total of \$1,606,962.92 for the period covering November 1, 2019 to November 30, 2019 were reviewed.

There being no questions or discussion Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded the approval of the Minutes, Claims and Payroll as presented above.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS**A. Resolution No. 155 Amendment of 2019 Budget**

CFO Horaski stated that Resolution No. 155 is a Resolution for the Board to amend the 2019 general fund budget as it relates to the administrative cost

paid to the State of Washington Health Care Authority and revenue received from the GEMT program.

There being no further questions or discussion, Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded to adopt Resolution No. 155.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

B. Resolution No. 156 Authorization for Special Election Prop

Chief Swearingen stated that Resolution No. 156 is a Resolution of the Board of Governance of the VRFA, King and Pierce Counties, Washington, relating to regular property taxes; providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the Authority at a special election held on February 11, 2020, of a proposition authorizing the Authority to levy regular property taxes in excess of the limitations of chapter 84.55 RCW; setting forth the text of the ballot proposition; directing proper Authority officials to take necessary actions; and providing for other properly related matters.

Discussion ensued.

There being no further questions or discussion, Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded to approve Resolution No. 156.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

C. FF, Captain, etal Collective Bargaining Agreement

Chief Swearingen stated that we reached agreement with the members of IAFF Local #1352 representing the firefighters, deputy fire marshals, assistant fire marshals and captains. He expressed appreciation for the professionalism and work done by the members of the negotiating teams. The Agreement is a three year agreement and an overview was provided.

Discussion ensued.

There being no further discussion or questions Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded to approve.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

D. Appointment of Clerk of the Board

Chief Swearingen is seeking appointment of Stefanie Harper as Clerk of the Board effective January 1, 2020.

There being no questions or discussion, Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded to approve the appointment of Stefanie Harper as Clerk of the Board.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

X. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**A. AWC Workers Compensation Retro Program**

CFO Horaski expressed appreciation to HR Manager Borden for making us aware of this program and got us actively engaged in the program. The AWC Board has approved our participation in the Retro Pool which provides an opportunity to receive refunds over time when we underutilize L & I services. An explanation of the requirements and financial benefits of the program was provided.

There being no further questions or discussion, Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded approval to enter into the AWC Retro Pool.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

XI. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION

Chief Swearingen requested an executive session to include CFO Horaski and the Board members to review the performance of a public employee as authorized by RCW 42.30.110. Anticipate that the executive session will last ten minutes and there may be action at the conclusion.

Chair Guier convened the executive session at 6:09 p.m. with the Board members and CFO Horaski. The executive session concluded at 6:19 p.m. and the Board returned to their regular meeting.

Vice-Chair Hill moved that the Board of Governance amend the compensation of Chief Brent Swearingen, effective January 1, 2020 with a cost of living adjustment of 1.7% of the 2019 base salary, and providing a deferred compensation contribution increase of \$1,000 annually. Member Backus seconded.

There being no further discussion or questions:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9-0

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Dated this 14 day of January, 2020.



Leanne Guier
Chair



Louise Bartol
Clerk of the Board