



**VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY  
GOVERNANCE BOARD  
1101 D Street NE  
Auburn, Washington  
April 13, 2021**

---

**GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair David Hill called the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) Board of Governance Regular Meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

**A. Flag Salute**

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

**B. Roll Call**

Chair David Hill, Vice-Chair Nancy Backus, Member Leanne Guier, Member Claude DaCorsi, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Troy Linnell, Member Lynda Osborn, Member David Storaasli, and Member Larry Brown.

Staff members present included Fire Chief Brent Swearingen, Deputy Chief Dave Larberg, Deputy Chief Brad Thompson, Chief Financial Officer Mark Horaski, Legal Counsel Eric Quinn, and Clerk of the Board Stefanie Harper.

**C. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations**

There were no announcements, proclamations or presentations.

**D. Appointments**

There were no appointments.

**E. Agenda Modifications**

There were no agenda modifications.

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS, CITIZEN INPUT, AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. Public Hearings**

Pursuant to Proclamation 20-28 Open Public Meetings Act, there was no public hearing.

**B. Audience Participation**

*Pursuant to Proclamation 20-28 Open Public Meetings Act, there was no audience participation. All correspondence was submitted prior to the meeting and provided to the Board*

There was no correspondence submitted to the Board.

**C. Update from IAFF Local #1352**

Vice President Jordan Gustafson of IAFF Local # 1352 spoke to the Board and provided an update on the status of members deployed to Yakima to help FEMA with their COVID vaccination site. He thanked Administration and the Board for their support and allowing members the opportunity to help.

VP Gustafson stated that the Local is currently preparing for Wildland season.

**D. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence for the Board's consideration.

**III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Finance Committee**

Chair Osborn stated that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommends Claims and Payroll for approval by the Board.

**IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Vice Chair Backus shared her appreciation for the work being done by VRFA and the Local at the vaccination and testing site. She stated Congresswoman Schrier was at the vaccination site and the level of professionalism, and humor, was something she was very proud of.

**V. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Administration**

Chief Swearingen provided an update to the Board on COVID vaccinate site.

Chief Swearingen provided an update on recruits in the academy and the joint recruitment efforts currently underway.

Chief Swearingen stated the Annual Report is in final draft.

Chief Swearingen provided an update on the BC exam that took place and stated we have a current BC list of eligible candidates.

Chief Swearingen stated he met with the Muckleshoot Tribe and presented our annual request for reimbursement and the ask was approved.

Chief Swearingen stated we will be applying for Candidacy Status in the Accreditation process, which is the final stage in the process.

Member Larry Brown had a question regarding the accreditation process. Discussion ensued.

**VI. CONSENT ITMES**

*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 March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

**B. Vouchers**

**1. Claims**

Check numbers 209389 through 209457 in the amount of \$652,727.37, and electronic payments in the amount of \$10,450.00, totaling \$663,177.37, dated April 14, 2021. (Check #209388 (\$58,841.03) was issued to replace voided Check #209352 (\$63,711.16) due to incorrect invoice amount from King County.)

**2. Payroll**

Payroll check numbers 99649 through 99650 in the amount of \$16,122.99, and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$1,784,058.77 for a grand total of \$1,800,181.76 for the period covering March 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**VII. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS**

There were no resolutions or motions.

**VI. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

There was no information or discussion.

**VII. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION**

CFO Horaski request an executive session to include all members under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price. Anticipated that the executive session will last ten minutes and there may be action at the conclusion.

Chair Hill convened the executive session at 5:39 pm with Board members. The executive session concluded at 5:55 pm and the Board returned to their regular meeting.

Vice Chair Backus moved that Board of Governance authorize Chief Swearingen to enter into negotiation for the purchase and sale of a piece of parcel within the city limits of Auburn. Member DaCorsi seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

Member Guier moved that the Board of Governance authorize Chief Swearingen to enter into negotiation for the purchase and sale of a piece of parcel within the city limits of Pacific. Vice Chair Backus seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

CFO Horaski request an executive session to include all members under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price. Anticipated that the executive session will last five minutes and there may be action at the conclusion.

Legal counsel recommended that because the VRFA was considering negotiation for the purchase of real estate owned by the City of Auburn, governing officials of the City of Auburn, or employees of the City of Auburn, should recuse themselves from discussing this potential purchase in executive session, and should also refrain from voting on any decision of the VRFA Board on negotiating this potential purchase.

Chair Hill convened the executive session at 6:01 pm with Board members, excluding members of City of Auburn. The executive session concluded at 6:17 pm and the Board returned to their regular meeting.

Member Guier moved that the Board of Governance authorize Chief Swearingen to enter into negotiation for the purchase and sale of a piece of parcel within the city limits of Auburn. Member Linnell seconded. All VRFA Board members serving the City of Auburn abstained from voting on this motion.

**MOTION CARRIED 4-2**

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. Anticipated that the executive session will last fifteen minutes and there may be action at the conclusion.

Chair Hill convened the executive session at 6:21 pm with Board members and CFO Horaski. The executive session concluded at 6:55 pm and the Board returned to their regular meeting.

There was no motion called.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

  
David E. Hill  
Chair

  
Stefanie Harper  
Clerk of the Board