



**VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY  
GOVERNANCE BOARD  
1101 D Street NE  
Auburn, Washington  
December 14, 2021**

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**GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Nancy Backus called the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) Board of Governance Regular Meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

**A. Flag Salute**

Vice Chair Backus led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Roll Call**

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

Staff members present included Chief Brad Thompson, Deputy Chief Dave Larberg, Deputy Chief Rick Olson, CFO Mark Horaski, Legal Counsel Eric Quinn, and Clerk of the Board Stefanie Harper.

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

Chief Thompson presented Member DaCorsi with a retirement plaque. Member DaCorsi has served 6 years on the VRFA Board of Governance. Chief Thompson expressed his gratitude for his service and dedication to the communities we serve.

**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 was no public hearings.

**B. Audience Participation**

There was no audience participation.

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

There was no update from IAFF Local #1352

**C. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**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**

There were no board member reports.

**V. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Administration**

Chief Thompson provided an update to the Board on the overall call volume for 2021 – he stated we are currently 15.5% over our call volume from 2020.

Chief Thompson provided an update on the Fire Pilot program we are taking part in through L&I, which will lead to lower Worker Comp rates.

Chief Thompson provided an update on the Entry Level Firefighter process and indicated we have five individuals currently going through the background process and are set to start the February 2022 academy. Furthermore, we have five recruits who are in the EMT portion of the 2021 academy and are set to graduate in January 2021 and will be assigned shifts on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Thompson stated the Captains test is taking place in March.

Chief Thompson updated the Board that we have five internal candidates who have applied for the UW Foster School of Business Emerging Leaders Academy.

Chief Thompson stated tomorrow is our final stage of the Accreditation process. This final hearing will take place virtually and we are confident we will pass this final stage and be granted accreditation status.

**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 9, 2021 Regular Meeting.**
- 2. Minutes\* of the November 10, 2021 Special Meeting.**

**B. Vouchers**

**1. Claims**

Check numbers 210012 through 210073 in the amount of \$618,990.66, and electronic payments in the amount of \$1,371,800.00, totaling \$1,990,790.66, dated December 15, 2021.

**2. Payroll**

Payroll check numbers 99673 through 99674 in the amount of \$15,660.77, and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$1,849,645.28 for a grand total of \$1,865,306.05 for the period covering November 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021.

There being no further discussion or questions Member Guier moved and Member Storaasli 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**

**A. Resolution No. 176: 2021 General Fund Budget Amendment**

CFO Horaski stated the resolution amends the 2021 general fund budget to include the acquisition of Fire Station 31 from the City of Auburn, and to account for expenditures related to reimbursable overtime.

There being no further discussion or questions, Member Guier moved and Member DaCorsi seconded the approval of Resolution No. 176.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**B. Organizational Chart Update**

Chief Thompson stated the organization chart presented more accurately reflects the reporting structure of the senior staff team.

There being no further discussion or questions, Member Guier moved and Member Brown seconded the approval of the Organizational Chart Update.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**C. 2022-2024 Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal CBA**

CFO Horaski requested a closed session under RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) to include members of the Board of Governance members, Chief Thompson, DC Olson, DC Larberg, CFO Horaski and HR Borden. Anticipated that the closed session would last 5 minutes.

Vice Chair Backus convened the closed session at 6:02 pm with the Board members. The closed session concluded at 6:07 pm and the Board returned to their regular meeting.

There being no further discussion or questions, Member Guier moved and Member Storaasli seconded the approval of the 2022-2024 Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal CBA.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**D. Resolution No. 177: Indemnification**

CFO Horaski stated Resolution 177 is providing a defense and indemnification to Chief Thompson, by his employer, Valley Regional Fire Authority in litigation arising out of a current lawsuit. Chief Brad Thompson is named as a defendant, in which VRFA is also a party. Chief Thompson was taking actions as Fire Chief on behalf of Valley Regional Fire Authority.

There being no further discussion or questions, Member Guier moved and Member Dacorsi seconded the approval of Resolution No. 177.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**VI. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

There was no information and/or discussion.

**VII. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION**

CFO Horaski requested an executive session with members of the Board to review the performance of a public employee, RCW 42.30.110(g). Anticipated the session will last 15 minutes.

Vice Chair Backus convened the executive session at 6:10 pm with members of the Board. The executive session concluded at 6:25 pm and the Board members returned to their regular meeting.

There being no further discussion or questions, Member Guier moved and Member DaCorsi seconded to adjust the compensation of the Fire Chief effective January 1, 2022 utilizing the cost of living adjustment of 6.3% of the 2021 salary.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Dated this 1/13/ day of January, 2022

Nancy Backus  
Nancy Backus  
Vice - Chair

Stefanie Harper  
Stefanie Harper  
Clerk of the Board