



**VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
GOVERNANCE BOARD
1101 D Street NE
Auburn, Washington
March 14, 2023**

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Linnell called the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) Board of Governance Regular Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

A. Flag Salute

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

B. Roll Call

Chair Troy Linnell, Vice Chair Nancy Backus, Member Leanne Guier, Member Vic Kave, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Lynda Osborn, Member Robyn Mulenga, Member Larry Brown (excused), and Member Bill Thomas.

Staff members present included Chief Brad Thompson, Deputy Tim Day, Deputy Chief Rick Olson, CFO Mark Horaski, Legal Counsel Brian Snure, 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

There were no public hearings.

B. Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

C. Update from IAFF Local #1352

Vice President Gustafson provided an update to the Board on the VRFA members who participated in the Stair Climb in Seattle. The team raised over \$20,000 this year, led by Ryan Simpson. VRFA came in 7th as a team in

times. The VRFA team is now in the Gold Category because they have raised over \$100,000 since beginning to participate in this event.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee

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

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Kave brought requested that the Board discuss and consider a terminal leave policy for VRFA members. He stated that the current "Post Retirement Leave policy" only allows for nine days off after members notify the Administration of their retirement.

Chair Linnell asked for clarification, and Chief Thompson offered to share the policy with the Board. Member Backus asked whether this was a matter for the policy or Board approval, to which Chief Thompson replied that it falls under the administration's policy.

The Board then discussed whether Member Kave was referring to a policy or resolution, and Chief Thompson agreed to provide further information on the matter at the next meeting.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Thompson provided the following update:

We are still working through the feasibility stage for St. 38 property, and we may need to request an extension. A decision on this matter should be made within the next month.

We will soon be seeking approval to purchase new apparatus, as several response apparatuses are reaching their benchmark and need to be moved to reserve status. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

Our 11 recruits have transitioned well into shift life and will be taking their next JATC exam in early April.

DC Olson met with the 7 current recruits in the academy last week, and we are pleased to report that they are all exceeding our expectations and doing well.

Fire Marshal Casselman has announced his upcoming retirement, which will take place at the end of June. DC Day and HR Borden are currently working with the Fire Marshal Office to conduct a promotional test for his position.

Our CARES team will be taking on two interns from the University of Washington starting in June. The interns will be joining us for a 9-month internship program.

Deputy Fire Marshal Irvine has launched our company inspections program for the year by meeting with every crew at every station.

Our school programs are back up and fully running in the local schools, for the first time since COVID.

A smoke detector class in conjunction with the Red Cross is scheduled to take place on April 22nd. I am pleased to share that some of our newest members have signed up to represent the VRFA at this event.

Women in Fire & EMS recruiting event is taking place in April, and we will be having members attend.

As part of our recognition of Woman's History Month and Social Worker Month, I am proud to acknowledge the 13 females currently serving in our firefighter ranks, along with several others in different areas of the department. We are ahead of the industry standards in this regard but recognize that we still need to increase our diversification and representation across all ranks. I firmly believe that our organization is far better and more resilient because of the valuable contributions made by our female staff members.

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

The minutes of February 14, 2023, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 211010 through 211068 in the amount of \$263,170.25 and electronic payments in the amount of \$12,650.00 totaling \$275,820.25, dated March 15, 2023.

2. Payroll

Payroll check numbers 99694 and 201253 through 201561 in the amount of \$12,804.23 and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$1,979,503.19 for a grand total of \$1,992,307.42 for the period covering February 1, 2023, to February 28, 2023.

Vice Chair Backus made a motion to approve the Consent Items as presented above, and Member Guier seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or questions, and the motion was carried.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

A. Resolution 185 – Surplus Items

DC Day stated that in accordance with policy, the VRFA has determined that one of its vehicles requires extensive repair due to vandalism. The cost of repair is over 50% of the value of the vehicle. Therefore, the VRFA is requesting approval of Resolution 185, which calls for the disposal of public property as identified.

There being no further discussion or questions, Vice Chair Backus moved, and Member Kave seconded the approval of Resolution 185.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0

X. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. FBC Formulation

Chief Thompson provided a follow-up on the conversation that started in the FBC appeals process and was brought to the Board last month.

We researched King County agencies that administer a Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) and found that out of the six agencies, four of them typically offer a discount of 10%. Interestingly, we noticed that VRFA and East Side F&R do not offer a discount. Further investigation revealed that when we became an RFA and adopted the Fire Benefit Charge, VRFA modeled the formula used by East Side F&R

If the decision is made to offer a discount, we will need to collaborate with our partnering cities to assess the potential impact on our FBC. We don't think that the impact will be significant, but we cannot be certain until we gather all the data on the number of residential sprinkler systems installed in the cities.

If the Board decides that offering an FBC reduction is the right direction, the next step for us would be to notify the residents accordingly. However, it would be necessary to have a qualifier in place that demonstrates to VRFA that the residential sprinkler systems have been serviced, the system is monitored, a confident test has been performed, or the installation permit with final inspection has been obtained. This check would only need to be carried out once. It's important to note that annual inspection checks will not be conducted every year due to the fact that residential sprinkler systems are not designed to undergo stress tests like commercial systems, which are inspected annually.

Discussion ensued.

During the meeting, someone from the audience (whose identity is unknown) spoke out of turn and shared information about their jurisdiction's rules on fire sprinkler systems in new residential homes. Member Kave raised a Point of Order due to the member of the public speaking out of turn. In response, Chair Linnell reminded the member of the public that there is a designated time on the agenda for public comments.

XI. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION

There was no executive or closed session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Dated this 17th day of April 2023



for Troy Linnell
Chair



Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board