

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes

Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: August 8, 2023
Time: 5:15 p.m.
Location: 1101 D St NE, Auburn, WA 98002

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 (excused), 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

Chief Day introduced Crystal Harper, the recently appointed Administrative Assistant within the CRR Division, to the Board. Crystal provided a brief overview of her previous experiences and expressed her appreciation and enthusiasm for her new position at VRFA.

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

One audience member, Mr. Kocher, was granted three minutes to address the Board. Mr. Kocher's inquiry pertained to his Tort Claim filed with VRFA Staff. Staff informed Mr. Kocher that, as a policy, current litigations cannot be discussed in a public forum. However, they did confirm the receipt of his claim.

C. Update from IAFF Local #1352

Vice President Gustafson addressed the Board and extended thanks for their approval of moving forward with the Bond measure. He noted the current issue of St. 31

reaching capacity for crew members, a situation indicative of growth and success. Vice President Gustafson conveyed the Local's excitement regarding the recent recruitments and the potential for station expansion. He also expressed the Local's appreciation for the ongoing communication efforts by the Chiefs with the staff.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee

Member Backus stated that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommended the Board approve Claims and Payroll.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Garberding expressed gratitude to Station 38 for their participation in the National Night Out. Member Guier also joined in to share her appreciation and shared a heartwarming story about her grandson's experience and the generous giveaways provided by the crew.

Vice Chair Backus extended thanks to VRFA for their presence at an event held at the Nazarene Church in Auburn, as well as their participation in the Chili Cookoff, with the City of Auburn Police. The combined efforts raised an impressive sum of over \$1200 for the Auburn Food Bank!

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Thompson provided the following update to the Board:

A year ago, we welcomed our largest class of 11 recruits, and they are now approaching the end of their probation year. Because of the increased staffing, we were able to add a full-time Aid Car to St. 31 for the past seven months. This move has not only reduced the pressure on St. 31 but has also significantly contributed to the health and safety of our firefighters and the reliability of our units. Consequently, units at St. 31 are available for calls more often. The new Aid Unit has responded to an impressive 1100 calls. Specifically, Aid 331 has seen an 8.5% increase in availability (equivalent to an additional 2 hours per day), and Ladder 31 is now available 8% more frequently. This translates to enhanced accessibility for our citizens since the addition of this Aid Unit.

In the coming Fall, we anticipate the arrival of 8 more recruits who will commence their academy training in August. Upon their graduation, Chief Olson will establish a new engine company, raising our minimum staffing level to 23. While this growth is certainly positive, it presents some logistical challenges, such as insufficient locker space. Currently, we have 100 firefighters on the streets, and when these 8 new recruits graduate, approximately one-third of our workforce will be enrolled in our JATC program. This places significant demands on our senior members. Nevertheless, it's an excellent challenge to have, as it positively impacts our organizational culture. We need to acknowledge the extra effort put forth by our dedicated staff.

Additionally, two of our members, BC Kinnee and FM Bergford, will be attending the UW Foster School of Business Executive Leadership Program. This program, initiated by Seattle Fire, represents a master's level course and is a great opportunity for leadership development.

Regarding our recent solicitation for a pro and con committee, we did not receive any applications for a con committee. As a result, there will not be a con committee represented in the votes pamphlet.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce that we have reached an agreement on the property on Ellingson and expect to finalize the purchase shortly.

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 the July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 211322 through 211385 in the amount of \$526,839.46 and electronic payments in the amount of \$15,291.53 totaling \$542,130.99, dated August 9, 2023.

2. Payroll

Payroll check numbers 99699 and 201263 in the amount of \$11,326.58 and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,187,162.98 for a grand total of \$2,198,489.56 for the period covering July 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023.

There being no further discussion or questions, Vice Chair Backus moved, and Member Guier seconded the approval of the Consent Items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 - 0

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

There were no resolutions or motions.

X. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

There was no information or discussion.

XI. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION

There was no executive or closed session.

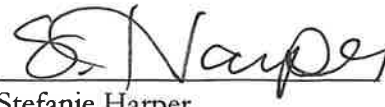
XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Dated this 12th day of September 2023



Troy Linnell
Chair



Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board