

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: January 9, 2024
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 Vic Kave, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Lynda Osborn, Member Larry Brown, Member Bill Thomas, Member Tracy Taylor, and Member Jack Stutler.

Staff members present included Chief Brad Thompson, Deputy Tim Day, Deputy Chief Rick Olson, CFO Mark Horaski, Legal Council Brian Snure, and Clerk of the Board Stefanie Harper.

C. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations

Chief Thompson presented DC Olson with a 25-year service coin, expressing deep gratitude for Olson's dedicated service to VRFA and commending him as an outstanding leader.

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

There was no update from IAFF Local #1352.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

III. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee

Chair Osborn stated that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommended the Board approve the expenditure related to completing the demolition work on the property in Pacific.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Kave provided an update to the Board and staff members concerning his previous comments regarding the purchase of Station 31 from the City of Auburn. He shared that he had received additional information from Mayor Backus, including a statutory warranty deed outlining the conditions of the transfer from King County to the City of Auburn. Member Kave clarified that, based on this new information, the status of the property transaction was not as he had indicated in the past, based on his research.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Thompson welcomed Tracy Taylor from the City of Auburn, and Jack Stutler from the City of Pacific as the two new members to the VRFA Board of Governance.

Chief Thompson provided an update to the Board on various topics:

In 2023, VRFA responded to 15,860 calls, with 13,174 of them being EMS-related. The reduced number of calls to medical incidents is being evaluated, with recognition given to CARES teams for providing increased support to frequent users of 911.

Staffing changes were announced, including the arrival of Community Outreach Specialist Sara Morris on January 16th, Kimberly Terhune's transition to Emergency Management Coordinator, Firefighter Jim Franklin's move to Deputy Fire Marshal, Thomas Downs taking the role of Applications Engineer, and Evan Zierath assuming the position of IT Systems Administrator.

Eight recruits are set to graduate from the academy on January 18th. FBC notices will soon be sent to community members, with residential sprinkler discounts being applied the first time.

Recognitions were extended to board members Larry Brown (4 years), Troy Linnell (8 years), Nancy Backus (14 years), and Lynda Osborn (17 years) for their dedicated service.

DC Olson shared that operations will be fully staffed once the eight recruits graduate. Noting 50% of firefighters have less than 5 years of service, and 39% are enrolled in JATC, with a commendable 0% failure rate in JATC testing, showcasing the hard work of the crews.

Engine 336 is scheduled to go into service on February 4th, operating as its own crew and station, temporarily stationed at Station 31 until the completion of Station 36's construction.

Member Kave inquired about the new Emergency Management position and whether the person would be reaching out to City Emergency Management officials to initiate collaboration on plans and relationships. DC Day responded and confirmed this would be taking place as Kimberly gets settled in her new role.

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 December 12, 2023, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 211654 through 211707 in the amount of \$590,222.76 and electronic payments in the amount of \$54,642.32 totaling \$644,865.08, dated January 10, 2024.

2. Payroll

Payroll check number 99704 in the amount of \$9,600.00 and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,434,299.98 for a grand total of \$2,443,899.98 for the period covering December 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

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

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. Demolition Work – City of Pacific Property

Deputy Chief Day stated the property in Pacific for future Station 38, which includes a single-family residence, and a detached garage, as well as debris and overgrown brush, needs to be demolished due to security concerns. A small public works process was completed, and the lowest responsive and responsible bid was presented to the Board for approval.

There being no questions or discussions, Vice Chair Backus moved, and Member Osborne seconded the approval of the expenditure of \$53,943 to complete the demolition work on the Pacific property as described in the contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 – 0

B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Linnell made a motion to nominate Nancy Backus as Chair, to serve a two-year term. Member Garberding seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 - 0

Vice Chair Backus made a motion to nominate Troy Linnell as Vice Chair, to serve a two-year term. Member Brown seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 - 0

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 5:36 p.m.

Dated this 13th day of February 2024

Nancy Backus

Nancy Backus
Chair

S. Harper

Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board