

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes

Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: April 9, 2024
Time: 5:15 p.m.
Location: 1101 D St NE, Auburn, WA 98002

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Flag Salute

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

B. Roll Call

Chair Nancy Backus, Vice Chair Troy Linnell (virtual), 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, HR Director Sarah Borden, Legal Council Brian Snure, and Clerk of the Board Stefanie Harper.

C. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations

Deputy Chief Olson presented Chief Thompson with his 25 Years of Service coin.

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

Captain Eliason, on behalf of the Local, expressed support for the Resolution to increase the Retiree Medical Benefit amount, emphasizing it as a collaborative effort between the Local and administration.

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 CenturyLink Contract renewal, Resolutions No. 196, & 197 194, and Claims and Payroll.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Stutler regretfully announced his resignation from the VRFA Board of Governance due to his relocation outside the jurisdiction of the City of Pacific, rendering him ineligible to serve as a Council Member. However, the City of Pacific is pleased to announce that Council Member Eric Peterson will be assuming his position on the VRFA Board of Governance starting next month, May 2024.

Chair Backus expressed gratitude to the VRFA for their participation in the Pepsico Rolling Hero event held in Auburn. This event aimed to raise awareness and funds for fallen heroes and their children's college education. The Ladder Truck proudly raised the flag, bringing their own giant flag, which left everyone in awe. The professionalism displayed by the VRFA crews was commendable. It was a proud moment for us to bid the drivers well as they embarked on their cross-country journey.

V. STAFF REPORTS

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

Announcements were made for FF of the Year, FO of the Year, and Professional Excellence nominees, with award recipients to be revealed next week.

The Standards of Coverage group continues to meet regularly to update the overall plan, with progress and outcomes to be shared.

Chief Thompson has completed reviewing the 2024 program appraisals, which provide a consistent framework aligning programs with the strategic plan. The entire team was acknowledged for their dedication to completing these appraisals.

Progress is being made on the design of new stations in the Capital Facilities project, with appreciation extended to City staff for their assistance.

The fleet of emergency vehicles was discussed, with three fire engines expected in July 2026, along with a new Brush Truck and BC rig this summer. Extended build times for future apparatus are being addressed.

New SCBAs have begun arriving, representing a significant investment in firefighter safety.

Staff participated in various activities, including attending a DEI Interview Prep workshop, FF recruiting workshops on JBLM, and preparations for Entry Level Oral Boards and Captains Exam which are taking place over the next few weeks.

A reminder was given to include VRFA in summer event planning with each City.

VRFA personnel received WRAP Restraint training alongside the City of Algona Police. This training helped familiarize crews with the potential of responding to calls when this system is being used.

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 February 13, 2024, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 211837 through 211894 in the amount of \$425,866.28 and electronic payments in the amount of \$65,184.78 totaling \$491,051.06 dated April 10, 2024.

2. Payroll

Payroll check number 99708 in the amount of \$9,225.00 and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,154,709.50 for a grand total of \$2,163,934.50 for the period covering March 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024.

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

Board member Vic Kave stated for the record at the February 13, 2024, Board meeting that his vote on consent agendas excludes any vote on the payment of his post-retirement medical benefit from which he abstains, so Board member Kave has abstained from Voucher #ACH17-2450.

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. CenturyLink Contract

Chief Thompson stated the contract is a renewal of the existing contract for Metro Optical Ethernet data services between VRFA and CenturyLink. The contract renewal term is for a period of 36 months where payments are made as a monthly reoccurring charge of \$5,100 which is a decreased rate from the current contract.

There being no questions or discussions, Member Kave moved, and Member Brown seconded the approval of the renewal of CenturyLink Contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9- 0

B. Resolution No. 196 – Fire Benefit Charge Election

Chief Thompson stated VRFA’s FBC was last approved by voters in 2018, for a six-year renewal, meaning the current FBC authorization will expire at the end of this year. The stature for FBC renewals was amended to include a ten-year renewal option and a lifetime renewal option in addition to the six-year renewal option.

Staff believes that a ten-year renewal option is the most appropriate option as it balances taxpayer participation with the cost savings achieved with the utilization of a longer election cycle.

There being no questions or discussions, Member Kave moved, and Member Stutler seconded the approval of Resolution 196.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 – 0

C. Resolution No. 197 – Retiree Medical Benefit Adjustment

Chief Thompson stated that VRFA Policy 2183 outlines the contribution benefit for retired employees' medical insurance premiums, which have remained unchanged since 2016. The Retirement Medical Benefit was previously approved by the VRFA Board of Governance, and employees must meet Policy 2183 qualifications to receive it. The benefit rate was last adjusted in 2016 to \$550 per month. However, NWFFT Retiree Insurance premiums have increased significantly since then, from \$520.22 to \$834.46 in 2024. To reflect this change, it is recommended to raise the monthly Retirement Medical Benefit to \$835.00.

Discussion ensued.

Member Kave stated because he is a beneficiary of this benefit, he must recuse himself from this vote.

There being no questions or discussions, Member Taylor moved, and Member Stutler seconded the approval of Resolution 197.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 – 0

D. Eastside & Duvall Interlocal Agreement

Deputy Chief Day Eastside Fire & Rescue and the Duvall Fire Department have requested to piggyback on the VRFA’s brush truck contract with Cascade Fire & Life Safety. The original bid solicitation, contract, and Interlocal Agreements have been reviewed and approved by VRFA legal counsel. He asks the Board to allow Chief Thompson to sign Interlocal Agreements to authorize this arrangement.

There being no questions or discussions, Member Kave moved, and Member Garberding seconded the approval authorizing Chief Thompson to sign Interlocal Agreements with Eastside Fire & Rescue and the Duvall Fire Department..

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 5:43 p.m.

Dated this 14th day of May 2024

Nancy Backus
Nancy Backus
Chair

Stefanie Harper
Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board