

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: May 14, 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 5:16 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, Member Vic Kave, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Lynda Osborn, Member Larry Brown (Excused), Member Bill Thomas, Member Tracy Taylor, and Member Eric Petersen.

Staff members present included Chief Brad Thompson, Deputy Tim Day, Deputy Chief Rick Olson, CFO Mark Horaski (virtual), HR Director Sarah Borden, Legal Council 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

Captain Freed, President of Local #1352, provided an update on the Auburn Boeing Facility. On behalf of Local #1352 he stated their support of the ask of the BC of Health, Safety, and EMS position. Dan Sequist provided an overview of the situation with the Boeing Firefighters and events taking place at the Auburn facility.

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 BC of Health, Safety, and EMS position, and Claims and Payroll.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Kave remarked on the Boeing Firefighters lockout, highlighting his understanding of HazMat operations from both internal and external responders. He emphasized the crucial need for trained HazMat firefighters at the Auburn Boeing facility.

Member Taylor expressed gratitude to the VRFA members for their participation in the Auburn Valley Humane Society fundraiser, noting it was a great representation of the organization.

V. STAFF REPORTS

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

We are pleased to introduce Sara Morris as our new Community Outreach Specialist. Sara was awarded the Public Educator's Award from the WA Fire Chiefs in 2013, and we are excited to have her on board.

May has been a busy month for us. We completed our annual state audit with no findings, under the exceptional leadership of CFO Horaski, maintaining our record of outstanding financial responsibility and clean audits.

Senior Staff attended the Association of WA Cities Labor Relations Conference, as we have for many years, to stay informed on current legislation and employment laws.

WA Fire Chiefs hosted a job fair and I was able to interact with firefighter candidates who are going through or starting the testing/hiring process. Candidates had a valuable experience learning how to navigate the hiring process. Over 22 agencies attended, and we are excited to host the event next year at Green River Community College. Additionally, we had representation at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord event for job opportunities as first responders.

Next week, DC Olson and I will conduct Chief's Interviews with 65 candidates who have made it through the oral boards, with conditional offers to follow.

The captain's exam process was completed last week. Once the Civil Service Commission approves, the list will be posted.

The Station Design Committee is finalizing the design for Station 36, with surveying and engineering ongoing at that site. Work continues on clearing the land at Station 38.

Finally, we are on track for the FBC renewal on the August ballot.

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 April 9, 2024, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 211895 through 211960 in the amount of \$1,203,995.70 and electronic payments in the amount of \$73,825.62 totaling \$1,277,821.32 dated May 15, 2024.

2. Payroll

Payroll check number 99709 in the amount of \$9,225.00 and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,373,048.95 for a grand total of \$2,382,273.95 for the period covering April 1, 2024, to April 30, 2024.

There being no further discussion or questions, Vice Chair Linnell moved, and Member Taylor 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 8 - 0

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

A. BC of Health, Safety, and EMS

Chief Thompson requested board authorization to establish a new day shift Battalion Chief (BC) position. This role would report to the Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction and oversee VRFA's Health, Safety, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs. The goal is to fill this position and complete the necessary backfill before Q4 2024.

There being no questions or discussions, Vice Chair Linnell moved, and Member Kave seconded the approval of the BC of Health, Safety, and EMS position.

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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 5:49 p.m.

Dated this 11th day of June 2024


Nancy Backus
Chair


Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board