

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: September 9, 2025
Time: 5:15 p.m.
Location: 1101 D St NE, Auburn, WA 98002

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Flag Salute

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

B. Roll Call

Chair Nancy Backus(Excused), Vice Chair Troy Linnell , Member Vic Kave, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Lynda Osborn, Member Bill Thomas, Member Tracy Taylor, Member Eric Petersen, and Member Hanan Amer.

Staff members present included Chief Brad Thompson, Deputy Steve Zehnder, CFO Mark Horaski, HR Director Sarah Borden, 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

There was no update from IAFF Local #1352

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

II. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee

Chair Osborn reported that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommended Board approval of Claims and Payroll.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board Member reports.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Thompson provided the following update:

Station 31 is in the schematic design phase for review. The department remains in the discovery phase regarding the PFAS findings and plans to work with the Department of Ecology to determine remediation requirements.

Station 36 construction is progressing well, with the first slab pour expected before the end of the month.

Station 38 is currently in the permit drawing phase, with submittal to the City of Pacific planned before the end of September.

Headquarters is scheduled for a pre-application meeting with the City of Auburn in mid-October. Architects are actively working on the permit drawings.

August has been particularly smoky, with air quality remaining in the moderate range due to wildfires burning across Washington and the Bear Gulch fire. A Stage 1 burn ban remains in effect.

Several VRFA firefighters are currently deployed in Eastern Washington and on the Olympic Peninsula. Three members were sent with the Brush Truck to the Wooden Road Fire in Walla Walla, which has grown from 500 acres to over 4,000 acres and is currently at Level 1 activation.

Captain Chadwick was approved as a Wildland Strike Team Leader. He has spent more than 200 days on deployments - a remarkable accomplishment requiring significant dedication, training, and leadership in wildland operations.

Captain Alvarado has been promoted to Rescue Team Manager for Washington Task Force 1. In this role, he now oversees Rescue Squad Operations on Type 1 deployments.

Six recruits began the academy last week. Two new members joined the CARES Team, one started on September 2nd, and another will begin on September 16th.

The Strategic Plan has been received back in draft form and will be presented to the Board of Governance in October.

Battalion Chief Paul Strong celebrated 30 years of service on September 1st. Throughout his career, he has served in several roles within the department and has been the King County Resource Team Leader since 2016. He is deeply dedicated to the organization and its people. Congratulations and gratitude to BC Strong.

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 August 12, 2025, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 213009 through 213075 in the amount of \$1,464,247.62 and electronic payments in the amount of \$109,852.25 totaling \$1,574,099.87 dated September 10, 2025.

2. Payroll

Payroll electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,591,695.07 for the period covering August 1, 2025, to August 31, 2025.

There being no further discussion or questions, Member Kave moved, and Member Petersen 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 # DFT 0013254.

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. 2026 Budget Meeting Calendar

CFO Horaski presented the proposed 2026 budget meetings to the BoG for approval, with a Special BoG meeting taking place October 28th.

There being no further questions or discussions, Member Thomas moved, and Member Kave seconded to approve the 2026 Budget Meeting Calendar.

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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 5:27 p.m.

Dated this 14th day of October 2025

Nancy Backus
Nancy Backus
Chair

S. Harper
Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board