

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: June 9, 2026
Time: 5:00 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 5:00 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 Tim Fairley, Member Bill Thomas, Member Tracy Taylor, Member Eric Petersen, and Member Hanan Amer (virtual).

Staff members present included Chief Brad Thompson, Deputy Chief Tim Day, Deputy Chief Steve Zehnder, HR Director Sarah Borden, 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

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

President Eliason addressed the Board with an update on members who traveled to Maryland to honor Battalion Chief Bill Mack at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. He also shared that members will attend the Washington State Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Olympia in Bill Mack's honor, and that Battalion Chief Mack will be recognized again at the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial in Colorado this September.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

I. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Finance Committee**

There is no Finance Committee at this time.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Chair Backus shared that she recently attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors, where she participated in a session with the President of the National IAFF. During the session, she spoke about the outstanding work of IAFF Local 1352 and made sure he knew the organization has exceptional members serving our communities.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Thompson shared that personnel transitions across the organization are beginning to take shape following several promotional processes and interviews. He recognized the professionalism, resilience, and collaboration demonstrated by staff throughout the process, specifically acknowledging Deputy Chief Zehnder, the Battalion Chiefs, IAFF Local 1352, and the Human Resources Division.

Chief Thompson reported that the current recruit academy class has completed the fire portion of training and is now attending EMT school. He also shared that six candidates have accepted conditional offers of employment and are currently progressing through the background process.

Looking ahead, VRFA has completed planning for the Fourth of July response, anticipating another busy fire season despite recent rainfall.

Chief Thompson also recognized several members for their service, including Kimberly Terhune for 35 years of dedicated service to the community, Captain Jeremiah Mushen for 20 years of service and his contributions to numerous specialty programs, and Battalion Chief Gary Barker, who will retire after 33 years of service.

Deputy Chief Day reported that Station 36 continues to progress as expected. VRFA has been working with the City of Auburn, Swinerton, and TCA to obtain a permit allowing Chief Thompson's retirement celebration to be held in the apparatus bay, despite the station remaining an active construction site.

DC Day shared that the lowest responsible bidder has been identified for the Station 38 and Headquarters projects. Building permits are being finalized, and VRFA anticipates executing a contract with Lincoln Construction in the coming days. He also noted that the Ellingson Road water main project is nearing completion, with only minor issues remaining.

For Station 31, VRFA held its first meeting with the Department of Ecology regarding PFAS remediation. Civil plans have been submitted for review, and staff will continue working through agency feedback as planning and property boundary work progresses.

Chief Thompson concluded the meeting by recognizing Captains Freed and Connell for successfully completing the Effective Leadership Academy at the University of Washington, hosted by the Seattle Fire Department, noting the program's focus on developing future leaders.

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

1. The minutes of May 12, 2026, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 213717 through 213797 in the amount of \$1,291,592.27 and electronic payments in the amount of \$2,938,999.12 totaling \$4,230,591.39 dated June 10, 2026.

2. Payroll

Payroll electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,725,890.20 for the period covering May 1, 2026, to May 31, 2026.

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

Member Kave stated that he has a contractual right to receive a post retirement medical benefit based on his years of service to the VRFA. The benefit is paid

monthly upon the Board's approval of vouchers. He stated, for the record, that he will abstain from all future votes on the portion of the consent agenda approving the payment of his post retirement medical benefit.

Board member Vic Kave stated for the record at the June 9, 2026, 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 # DFT0015129.

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. Resolution No. 217 - Surplus

DC Day stated the VRFA disposes of public property in accordance with Policy 6501 and RCW 39.33.010, which authorizes municipalities to dispose of property that is no longer of value or use. Staff presented the Surplus Equipment List for the Board's consideration.

There being no further discussion or questions, Vice Chair Linnell moved, and Member Garberding seconded to approve Resolution No. 217 allowing the disposal of the public property as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 - 0

B. Fire Chief Employment Agreement

CFO Horaski reported that Deputy Chief Tim Day had previously been appointed as Fire Chief by the Board. He presented the negotiated employment agreement between Tim Day and the Valley Regional Fire Authority and requested Board approval of the agreement.

There being no further discussion or questions, Vice Chair Linnell moved, and Member Taylor seconded to approve the employment agreement for Chief Day.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 - 0

XI. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

CFO Horaski presented the Board with an unaudited version the 2025 financial statements.

XII. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION

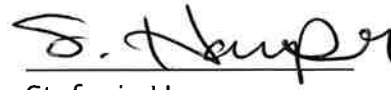
There was no executive or closed session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Dated this 14th day of July 2026


Nancy Backus
Chair


Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board