

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes

Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: September 8, 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 5:01 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 (excused), Member Vic Kave, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Tim Fairley, Member Bill Thomas, Member Tracy Taylor, Member Eric Petersen, and Member Hanan Amer.

Staff members present included Chief Tim Day, Deputy Chief Steve Zehnder, Deputy Chief Jason Herman, 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

There was no update from IAFF Local #1352

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

There were no Board Member reports

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Day opened the meeting by wishing Member Thomas an early happy birthday. He recognized Captain Gervase Henson, who recently retired after 23 years of service, noting his operational expertise and dedication to the organization. He also congratulated Cory Wallace on his promotion to Captain and expressed confidence in his continued contributions to the VRFA.

The Station 36 grand opening is approaching and a special thanks to the Board for its flexibility with scheduling. Crews will begin responding from the station following the grand opening. Special recognition to Support Services Team for their efforts in preparing the station for full operations and 24 hour staffing.

The opening of Station 36 has provided an opportunity to redeploy resources to improve operational efficiency. The Technical Rescue Team, which has operated out of Station 33 since 2009, will relocate to Station 36 following a review of response data indicating improved response times and highway access. Additional changes include relocating our Respirator unit from Station 34 to Station 33, along with brush fire resources.

Construction continues on Station 38 and Headquarters, while Station 31 remains in the final planning phases. Future capital projects will include evaluating needs for training, logistics, and maintenance facilities.

Testing of the new staffing software continues. Three pumper fire engines approved for purchase in 2023 are expected to arrive soon, with plans to place them in service by the end of the month. A new water tender is also expected to be delivered within the next couple of weeks.

Most King County agencies transitioned to encrypted communications on August 18th to protect sensitive information and improve safety. VRFA's primary radio

channels remain unencrypted; however, dispatch can move communications to encrypted channels when necessary.

The reaccreditation process, required every six years, is underway. Under Noah Chang's leadership, staff researched and provided written responses to 266 topics, with contributions from several members throughout the organization. The next steps include addressing feedback from the peer review team and preparing for a site visit in November, with the goal of achieving reaccreditation in March 2027.

The wildfire season appears to be winding down, with five to six deployed personnel expected to return this week. Brush fire responses within VRFA's service area remain consistent with previous years.

Program managers will present their program improvement budget requests on Thursday, with a special Board meeting anticipated in October for budget presentations to the Board.

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 August 11, 2026, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 213965 through 214037 in the amount of \$987,634.30 and electronic payments in the amount of \$1,369,660.35 totaling \$2,357,294.65 dated September 9, 2026.

2. Payroll

Payroll electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$3,124,004.27 for the period covering August 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026.

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

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 # DFT0016799

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VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

There were no resolutions or motions.

XI. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

There was no information or discussion.

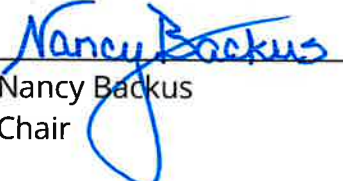
XII. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION

There was no executive or closed session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Dated this 13th day of October 2026


Nancy Backus
Chair


Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board