

Columbia River Fire & Rescue
Regular Meeting of the Boards of Directors
58611 McNulty Way, St. Helens, OR
And Virtual via Teams Meeting
November 14, 2024, 6:00 pm

Regular Meeting: After due and legal notice, the Regular Board meeting of the Columbia River Fire & Rescue Board of Directors was called to order by President Welby at 6:00 pm.

Present: Ryan Welby, Richard Fletcher, Mark Gundersen, Austin Zimbrick

Absent: Paul Rice

Others: Chief Smythe, K. Lehner, Dustin King, M. Chandler

Via Teams Meeting/Phone In: J. Pulito, S. Raichel, T. Pedersen

Flag Salute: President Welby led the flag salute.

Changes to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Local 3215 Report: Dustin King briefed the board on the meeting to finalize the numbers for the backpay due in December. He thanked the administrative office and Jim Pulito for their work putting together the numbers.

Negotiations for the new contract will begin in the next few months.

Volunteer Report: Chief Smythe updated the board on the volunteers' activity, including attending their annual meetings, trainings, and Toy n' Joy. The board was also invited to help with distributions. Chief Smythe will provide those dates as soon as he receives them from the volunteers.

Correspondence: None

CRFR Consent Agenda: Included in the consent agenda are the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on October 10, 2024, the check register for October checks, budget v. actual, and the October bank statement. Secretary Fletcher made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and VP Zimbrick 2nd the motion, all in favor, approved 4-0. There was a discussion regarding Wolfe Consulting, Merina & Co., Aiken, reimbursements, Blackbaud, Stryker Medical, and Cotiviti. Secretary Fletcher inquired about the audit presentation and when that would be scheduled. There was further discussion about the budget v. actual report.

Chief Officers Report: Chief Smythe discussed the memorandum in the board packet, including hiring 3 firefighters and filling the vacancies of departing firefighters in 2025. Chief Smythe spoke of Doug Kirchoffer managing the advertising and recruitment of 2 new single roles. Working with the medics there was an agreement to refer to the single roles as Medic 9 moving forward. A lieutenant exam will be held this winter, and a division chief of EMS job posting has been published. Chief Smythe discussed the new ambulance purchase and the estimates obtained from Braun and True North. The apparatus committee has also been restarted to look at new fire engines for the St. Helens station. Lt. Chandler presented the board with a flyer advertising a firefighter camp to be held at the end of spring break 2025 available to junior and senior high school students. This recruitment tool would encourage teenagers to explore possible careers in fire and EMS services. There was further discussion regarding the submission of the ASA, training, and recertifications.

Old Business: Board Policies Section A 13-17, VP Zimbrick made a motion to approve policies A 13-17 with no changes, Director Gunderson 2nd the motion, all in favor, 4-0.

New Business: Board Policies Section A 18-20, VP Zimbrick made a motion to approve policies A 18-20 with no changes, Director Gunderson 2nd the motion, all in favor, 4-0.

Secretary Fletcher made a motion to select the South County Spotlight as the Newspaper of Record, Director Gunderson 2nd the motion, all in favor 4-0.

Board Comments:

VP Zimbrick: Thank you Chandler for putting the camp together, good to see everyone, if there is anything we as a board can do better or how we can be proactive please let us know.

President Welby: Employees seem to have more of a sense of pride with the district, would like to see internal candidates apply for the DC position.

Director Gundersen: Like the idea of fire camp, happy with everything that has happened, shows great teamwork.

Secretary Fletcher: Would like to get back to 30 firefighters, OSP investigation and BOLI claim status.

Adjourn: 6:51 pm