



**VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
1101 D Street NE
AUBURN, WASHINGTON
June 11, 2019**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Leanne Guier called the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) Board of Governance Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:45 p.m., at the VRFA Headquarters, located at 1101 D Street NE, Auburn, Washington.

A. Flag Salute

Chair Guier led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call

Chair Leanne Guier, Member Nancy Backus, Member Pro-Tem Katie Garberding, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Troy Linnell, Member Lynda Osborn and Member Bill Pelosa.

Member Claude DaCorsi and Member David Storaasli were excused.

Staff members present included: Fire Chief/Administrator Brent Swearingen, Deputy Chief Dave Larberg, Deputy Chief Kevin Olson, Battalion Chief Brad Thompson, Fiscal Coordinator Angie Boyle, Clerk of the Board Louise Bartol and Legal Counsel Joe Quinn.

C. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations

1. Presentation of Deputy Chief Dave Larberg, Battalion Chief Pete Connell and Captain Gervase Henson

Chief Swearingen stated that as a follow up to the emails that the Board has received pertaining to recent promotions and upcoming promotions, he wanted to introduce the next generation of leadership that is stepping up. In July he will introduce the additional individuals who will be promoted to fill vacancies due to upcoming retirements.

Gervase Henson was promoted to Captain effective March 16, 2019. Captain Henson could not be here tonight due to a personal commitment and sends his regrets.

Pete Connell was promoted to Battalion Chief effective March 1, 2019. BC Connell expressed his appreciation to the Board for their support and shared a bit of his past experience and current role at the VRFA.

Dave Larberg was promoted to Deputy Chief effective February 16, 2019. Chief Larberg stated that he has lived or worked in Auburn his entire life and is grateful and thankful for this opportunity to serve and work in the community that has given so much to him. Larberg shared that the VRFA has awesome individuals working here and his job is to support them in having the best equipment, apparatus and tools necessary to be the best department in the State.

Chief Swearingen also took the opportunity to recognize Deputy Chief Kevin Olson's upcoming retirement and expressed how much DC Olson has meant to him since he came to the VRFA and to the organization. Chief Swearingen stated that he has never known anyone that has more universal respect, honor and served with more honor than DC Olson. He will be missed.

DC Olson stated that it has been a great 28 years and is looking forward to retirement. He has made some fabulous friends all across the county and will surely miss the people. He feels firefighters are some of the best human beings on the planet and it has been an absolute pleasure and has made him such a better person.

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

This is the place on the Agenda where the public is invited to speak to the Governance Board on any issue. Those wishing to speak are reminded to sign in on the form provided.

There was no audience participation.

C. Update from IAFF Local #1352

Jesse Mitchell, IAFF Local 1352 Political Liaison provided the following update:

- The Local congratulates Kevin Olson who was a long time member of the IAFF before promoting up and also Larry Upton, AFM who is retiring the end of the month.
- Expressed thanks to the Committee who worked together on the Standards of Cover document which will be presented by Chief Olson later in the agenda. The Local feels that this document is something that moving forward will take this organization to the next level with the Board's support.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the Board's consideration.

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

Chair Osborn stated that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommends Claims and Payroll for approval by the Board. They also recommend that the GEMT payment be made.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

At this time the Chair and Board Members may report on significant activities since the last regular meeting, inquire on matters of general fire authority business, or initiate investigation or action on a matter of concern.

Member Backus thanked Deputy Chief Kevin Olson for all of his work on the Auburn Blue Ribbon Committee for being the *Healthiest City in Washington by 2020*. He has dedicated so much of his time, has inspired, encouraged and has pushed members in our community to make sure that we are becoming a healthier community and not just physically. Community health is more than just physical health and DC Olson has done such tremendous work to move the initiative forward. We are going to miss him and really appreciate all the work DC Olson has done.

Chair Guier also expressed that DC Olson will be missed and looks forward to seeing him out and about in the community.

V. STAFF REPORTS**A. Administration**

Chief Swearingen provided the following update:

- A Leadership Committee has been initiated which is a joint committee with all aspects of administration, union, every division looking at ways we can better enhance the actual leadership in the department

and the leadership training development of individuals in the organization.

- We are looking at ways to economize on some of our apparatus maintenance and discussing the feasibility of forming a different type of apparatus maintenance consortium with area departments in which the VRFA would provide the billing, allowing for a credit that may lower our maintenance costs.
- Also met with the Chiefs from Puget Sound RFA, Renton RFA and Tukwila to discuss the way we plan, our Strategic Plan, and our physical fire station plans to ensure we are not duplicating resources and building stations across the street from each other. The goal is to plan on a master plan basis rather than on an individual department basis.

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. Minutes of the May 14, 2019 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 207816 through 207939 in the amount of \$522,585.45, and electronic payments in the amount of \$236,550.00, totaling \$759,135.45, dated June 12, 2019 were reviewed.

2. Payroll

Payroll check numbers 99587 through 99589 in the amount of \$16,112.35, and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$1,649,810.39 for a grand total of \$1,665,922.74 for the period covering May 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019 were reviewed.

There being no questions or discussion Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded the approval of the Minutes, Claims and Payroll as presented above.

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. Resolution No. 150**

Deputy Chief Olson provided an overview of the accreditation process, Standard of Cover, and Resolution No. 150 which if approved will replace Resolution No. 45 which outlines our current response time performance. The Standard of Cover is the first step in the accreditation process and is the most arduous part of the process. DC Olson expressed his appreciation for the members of the Committee who worked on the SOC the past nine months which included DC Larberg, Fire Marshal Karen Stewart, Captain Ryan Freed, Emergency Manager Sarah Yancey, Data Analyst Noah Chang and Administrative Assistant Colleen Jones. The SOC is to identify and assess local community risks and response capabilities. This allows the VRFA to make strategic decisions based on facts rather than intuition.

Resolution No. 150 outlines the target response benchmarks which will be used to measure our performance as outlined in the SOC.

Discussion ensued.

There being no further questions or discussion, Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded the approval of Resolution No. 150.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**B. Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) Payment**

Chief Swearingen stated that recent legislation has allowed the VRFA to participate in GEMT, a federal program handled through the State which subsidizes transport fees for Medicare and Medicaid patients. Swearingen is seeking authority to exceed his spending authority to pay the administrative fee charged by the State of Washington and due by the end of June. Once payment is received by the State, they will reimburse the VRFA the administrative fee along with the funds paid through the GEMT program.

There being no further discussion or questions Vice-Chair Hill moved and Member Backus seconded to authorize the Fire Chief to incur expenditures greater than his spending authority for the intergovernmental transfer payment due to the State of Washington Healthcare Authority to be paid in advance of the receipt of funds from third party payers for reimbursement of Ground Emergency Medical Transport expenditures that were incurred by the VRFA during calendar year 2017.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**X. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

There was no information/discussion.

XI. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for an executive or closed session.


XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Dated this 9th day of July, 2019.



Leanne Guier
Chair



Louise Bartol
Clerk of the Board