



**VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY  
GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING  
1101 D Street NE  
AUBURN, WASHINGTON  
October 8, 2019**

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**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, Vice-Chair Dave Hill, Member Claude DaCorsi, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Lynda Osborn & Member David Storaasli. Member Bill Pelozza arrived at 5:49 p.m.

Member Nancy Backus and Member Troy Linnell excused.

Staff members present included: Fire Chief/Administrator Brent Swearingen, Deputy Chief Dave Larberg, Deputy Chief Brad Thompson, Clerk Pro-Tem Stefanie Harper and Legal Counsel Eric Quinn.

**C. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations**

Chief Swearingen introduced newly appointed Battalion Chief Kevin Morehart. He has been a member of the legacy Auburn Fire Department and the VRFA for 25 years.

Battalion Chief Kevin Morehart expressed his honor of being a part of VRFA and the leadership team. He hopes to have a big impact on the organization moving forward.

**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.*

Bob Zimmerman addressed the Board of Governance expressing his concerns of a propane tank installed on his neighbor's property and his concern of the gas fumes that could be blown into the environment in the event of a natural disaster.

**B. Update from IAFF Local #1352**

Reed Astley, IAFF Local #1352 President provided the following update:

- Fill the Boot will be taking place all day Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at Outlet Collection in Auburn, Washington. All members and staff are invited to participate.

**C. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence for the Boards 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.

**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.*

Vice-Chair Hill expressed his concern around trains and a response time by Station 38 and what we do to address that.

Deputy Chief Brad Thompson responded to Vice-Chair Hill's concern and provided details surrounding the call and response time Vice-Chair Hill was referencing.

Member Bill Peloza inquired about current practice when crews/engines are stopped by a train in route for a call and how we track those incidences.

Chief Brent Swearingen provided clarification on the topic.

Chair Leanne Guier thanked members of the VRFA for explaining the train situation further with her.

**V. STAFF REPORTS****A. Administration**

Chief Swearingen provided the following update:

- The VRFA received a \$127,000 federal grant for new bunker gear and extraction equipment. The grant was submitted last year by Deputy Chief Larberg and his staff in Technical Services.
- On September 24<sup>th</sup> through September 26<sup>th</sup>, VRFA employees, members of Local #1352 and our Strategic Planning consultants met and developed our new Strategic Plan. A draft has been provided to Chief Swearingen and the next step is to edit and prepare a presentation for the Board.
- Negotiations with Local #1352 Firefighters and Captains unit continue and will meet again Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

In response to Chief Swearingen's update on the Federal Grant for new bunker gear, Vice-Chair Hill inquired what the cost per firefighter is for new gear and how many personnel would be fitted if the entire grant was used. Deputy Chief Larberg responded.

**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 September 10, 2019 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

**B. Vouchers****1. Claims**

Check numbers 208128 through 208198 in the amount of \$266,544.76, and electronic payments in the amount of \$9,900.00, totaling \$276,444.76, dated October 9, 2019 were reviewed.

**2. Payroll**

Payroll check numbers 99600 through 99602 in the amount of \$15,668.35, and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$1,599,309.07 for a grand total of \$1,614,977.42 for the period covering September 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019 were reviewed.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0**

**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.

**X. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

There was no new information/discussions.

**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 6:05 p.m.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019.



Leanne Guier  
Chair



Stefanie Harber  
Clerk Pro-Tem of the Board