



**VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY  
GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING  
1101 D Street NE  
AUBURN, WASHINGTON  
July 9, 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 Nancy Backus, Member Claude DaCorsi, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Troy Linnell, Member Lynda Osborn, Member Bill Pelozza and Member David Storaasli.

Staff members present included: Fire Chief/Administrator Brent Swearingen, Deputy Chief Dave Larberg, Deputy Chief Brad Thompson, Chief Financial Officer Mark Horaski, Clerk of the Board Louise Bartol and Legal Counsel Eric Quinn.

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

1. Presentation of Deputy Chief Brad Thompson, Battalion Chief Rick Olson, Assistant Fire Marshal Dave Casselman and Captain Jeremiah Mushen.

Chief Swearingen stated that last month at the Governance Board Meeting we introduced the first wave of a new generation of leadership we have coming up through the organization. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> the following individuals have assumed their new roles at the VRFA:

Deputy Chief Brad Thompson, Operations expressed that throughout his journey in the fire service, he has had the support of so many people who have helped him along the way to get to this point. A lesson he has learned through this journey is that it is all about the relationships you keep, which begins the day you walk in the door. He expressed

appreciation for this opportunity, to Chief Swearingen for putting his faith in him and to his family who continues to support him.

Battalion Chief Rick Olson was unable to attend as he is in Nevada on a fact finding mission to enhance our regional wildland response capabilities, and sends his regards.

Assistant Fire Marshal Dave Casselman is a second generation officer, as his father was an officer with the legacy Auburn Fire Department. AFM Casselman stated that this is a dream come true for him as he was born and raised in this town, and he is proud to honor his father's legacy. He appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to continuing to serve the community.

Captain Jeremiah Mushen expressed appreciation for the opportunity and feels the change in leadership brings an energy in the approach it is going. He is proud to work for the VRFA.

Chief Swearingen stated that he hopes that the Board of Governance has the same faith and pride in these individuals that he does.

Member Backus shared that AFM Casselman was her shadow at Fire Ops 101. She stated that he was very kind and helped her through this very challenging experience and expressed her appreciation to him.

**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**

Norm Golden, IAFF Local 1352 Secretary/Treasurer stated that the Local did not have an update at this time.

**D. Correspondence****1. B. Zimmerman**

Chief Swearingen responded to a letter received from Mr. Zimmerman and addressed Mr. Zimmerman's concerns regarding a 1000 gallon propane tank on his neighbor's property.

Fire Marshal Stewart provided historical facts regarding the permit, installation, and inspection of the propane tank and subsequent concrete masonry unit wall built.

**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.*

Chair Guier stated that she was honored to attend the Veterans of Foreign Wars recognition of Firefighter Dean McAuley for his national recognition from them for Medical Emergency Technician of the Year for the State of Washington.

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

Chief Swearingen provided the following update of two events:

- We graduated four new recruits. We have one new recruit on each shift and we are pleased and proud of this group. Encouraged Board members to attend at least one recruit graduation as it is a great event.
- DC Thompson will be provided an update on the ops part and FM Stewart will talk about prevention for 4<sup>th</sup> of July events:
  - DC Thompson stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was relatively calm statically this year. We had 42 calls for service which is typical of a weekend day. Unfortunately we did have 6 fires. Two were fireworks related; a garage fire and a vehicle fire both started by improperly disposed of fireworks. We also had 4 related firework injuries on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. Extra crews were on duty to work the 4<sup>th</sup> and were needed resources.
  - FM Stewart stated that the Fire Marshal's office completes inspections of the fireworks stands which is done on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. In addition they inspect the fireworks display at the Emerald Downs to ensure they are set up properly. One Fire Investigator is on staff on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and responded to 9 instances between the fires and injuries. A

total of 11 incidences over the weekend. A very busy weekend or the Fire Marshal's office.

Member Backus asked if the fireworks stands inspection included the Muckleshoot stands. FM Stewart stated that the VRFA does not have jurisdiction of the fireworks stands on the reservation; that there were 7 inspections completed, all in the City of Auburn.

**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 June 11, 2019 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

**B. Vouchers**

**1. Claims**

Check numbers 207940 through 208005 in the amount of \$1,249,822.36, and electronic payments in the amount of \$9,350.00, totaling \$1,259,172.36, dated July 10, 2019 were reviewed.

**2. Payroll**

Payroll check numbers 200999 and 99590 through 99592 in the amount of \$16,806.97, and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$1,626,351.28 for a grand total of \$1,643,158.25 for the period covering June 1, 2019 to June 30, 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 9-0**

**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 information/discussion.

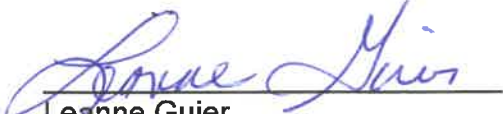
**XI. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION**

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 6:06 p.m.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019.



Leanne Guier  
Chair



Louise Bartol  
Clerk of the Board