

Columbia River Fire & Rescue
Regular Meeting of the Boards of Directors
58677 McNulty Way, St. Helens OR 97051
And Virtual via GoTo Meeting
February 8, 2022, 7:00 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 Feige at 7:00 pm.

Present: Hans Feige, Mark Kreutzer, Kelly Niles, Kim McLane, Gary Hudson

Absent: None

Others: Chief Medina, DC Holsey, DC Mendola, DC Smythe, FM Pedersen, Jennifer Motherway, Ben Davis and son, Monica Cade, BC Jerry Cole, Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Britta Schinske, FF David Bair & Family Members – Jade Bair (with daughter), Rachel & Patrick Bair (parents)

Via GoToMeeting: Kate Lehner, Tim Hennigan

Flag Salute: President Feige led the flag salute

Changes to the agenda: Financial Statements and check approval removed.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Badge Pining Ceremony for FF David Bair

CRFR Consent Agenda: Included in the consent agenda are the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on January 11, 2022. VP Niles moved to approve. Director McLane 2nd the motion.

No further discussion. Unanimous vote, motion approved.

RSVP Presentation by Monica Cade:

Monica had prepared a slide show and discussed the RSVP program. The volunteer program has approximately 300 volunteers currently registered with the average age being 72 years old. She discussed that in 2021 over 21,000 volunteer hours were logged. A large part of RSVP focuses on teen support programs. Grandparents in schools to tutor, provide school supplies, food, and support homeless teens. Some volunteers donate their time at the courthouse to greet visitors, 911 days remembrance, Veteran Honor Projects, and Toy n' Joy. Monica further discussed how the recognition of these volunteers is a big part of the RSVP program. Recognition of the volunteers include dining out, gifts, and mileage reimbursement.

President Feige asked how CRFR came to sponsor this program originally. Monica stated it was once known as the Foster Grandparent program originally before she was involved. VP Niles inquired about the RSVP program being grant funded. Britta discussed the RSVP Grant is for \$114,580 annually. AmeriCorps contributes 67% or \$76,434 and there is a required match of 33% or \$38,146. The 33% match can be cash donations or "in-kind" donations from any outside source. However, it has recently

been discovered that CRFR is paying more than this amount outright in real dollars to supplement RSVP.

Secretary Hudson commented that the program was not supposed to cost the district anything as that was the selling point when it was first presented. Director Kreutzer asked if the grant amount can be changed. Chief Medina stated the grant amount does not change. Director McLane inquired about the benefits that Monica Cade is receiving and if that is covered under the grant. Medina said the benefit package Monica is receiving including PERS is paid for by the district. VP Niles discussed the options of transferring the grant. Director Kreutzer asked County Commissioner Henry Heimuller about his thoughts on the RSVP program and if that was something the county could sponsor. Commissioner Heimuller stated he was shocked at the cost of the RSVP program and that it needs to be re-evaluated to determine how best to continue. Britta Schintske discussed re-defining the program with the new budget. Chief Medina spoke of the deadline to submit for a grant continuation is March 10th, 2022. He went on to explain that what was presented to the board last year was that the grant would pay for itself. Director Kreutzer made a motion to continue to sponsor the RSVP program. There was no 2nd so the motion died. Director McLane made a motion to not renew on 3/10/2022. VP Niles 2nd the motion. President Feige discussed the end of involvement with the RSVP program, the cost, and that the program should be run by the county. Secretary Hudson stated that the program was not sustainable at this time. VP Niles suggested CRFR help find a new sponsor for RSVP. Chief Medina discussed how much the RSVP program benefits the county and that a presentation for the county would be appropriate. Unanimous vote, motion approved.

Chief Officers Report:

Chief Cole discussed the status of line personnel and activities of probationary personnel testing. Chief Holsey gave an update on the ASA Plan and spoke of the draft in the board packet. VP Niles inquired about comments and edits that could be made to the ASA draft. Chief Mendola gave updates on the training taking place. FM Pederson discussed fire prevention and the continued growth in the community. Chief Smythe spoke of the impact Covid has had within the district and staff, stating the crews have been working overtime to cover those that have been out. Britta Schintske introduced herself as the new finance manager and gave a brief overview of her background and experience. Jennifer Motherway discussed the current grants she's submitted. She spoke of the Safer grant and main street building grant. The Safer grant would provide funds to recruit, retain, and train.

President Feige inquired about the Systems Design West EMS reports. Chief Medina discussed the reports would be presented at the next board meeting due to staff being out sick with Covid.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Board Comments:

Director McLane: Wished the employee that was sick feel better, congratulated the fire marshal, and commented on all the good things she sees on social media.

Secretary Hudson: Agreed with Director McLane and said good work thank you.

VP Niles: Appreciated ODF getting included in on calls.

Executive Session: 9:05 pm

Adjourn: 9:55 pm