

Columbia River Fire & Rescue
Regular Meeting of the Boards of Directors
58611 McNulty Way, St. Helens, OR
February 13, 2026, 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, Austin Zimbrick, Richard Fletcher, Mark Gundersen

Absent: Paul Rice

Others: Chief Smythe, K. Lehner, BC Schrotzberger, BC Wonderly, Lt. King, E. Green, T. Saunders, Fran Pearson & Husband.

Via Teams Meeting/Phone In: S. Raichel, M. Stanton

Flag Salute: President Welby led the salute

Changes to Agenda: New Business addition: Declaration of support for Columbia 911

Public Comment: Francine Pearson

Local 3215 Report: Lt. King provided an update on negotiations and call volume.

Volunteer Report: None

Correspondence: None

CRFR Consent Agenda: Included in the consent agenda are the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on January 08, 2026, the January check register, the budget-to-actual, and the January bank statement. VP Zimbrick made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Director Gundersen seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion was approved 4-0. There was a discussion regarding a check to Lecticon.

Chief Officers Report: Chief Smythe discussed the transition to tablet command and Lt. Jerry Barbouletos retirement at the end of March 2026. He briefed the board on the fire at the LBTC training grounds in one of the bays, which involved an ambulance. The ambulance was completely destroyed. The cause of the fire is still under investigation by OSFM. Chief Smythe and Fleet Maintenance are working closely with the insurance company to begin cleanup and repair. By the March board meeting, additional information will be provided regarding the fire and the possible repair timeline.

Old Business: None

New Business: Resolution 2025-26-07 Declaring Surplus Equipment (Electronic Devices), VP Zimbrick made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-26-07 Declaring Surplus Equipment (Electronic Devices), Director Gundersen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was approved 4-0.

Chief Smythe asked the board to make an emergency declaration for the fire at the Lee Broadbent Training Grounds to allow for cleanup, construction, and equipment replacement to begin immediately. VP Zimbrick made a motion to declare an emergency regarding the fire at LBTC, Director Gundersen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was approved 4-0.

Declaration of support for the Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District by the board of directors. VP Zimbrick made a motion for the declaration of support for Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District, Director Gundersen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was approved 4-0.

Chief Smythe reminded the board of the workshop taking place at CCOM Feb. 21st to serve as a meet and greet for the fire departments in Columbia County. It would be an opportunity for the board members to meet the neighboring fire department's Fire Chiefs and board members. Lunch would be provided. Ryan Welby and Mark Gundersen volunteered to attend the meet-and-greet with Chief Smythe.

6:30 pm enter Closed Executive Session: Real Property Transactions ORS 192.660(2)(f), 6:45 pm exit Closed Executive Session.

Board Comments:

Director Gundersen: Thanks to the staff for the quick response on the fire.

President Welby: Thank you to Francine for her public comment and it was unfortunate that there was a fire at LBTC.

Adjourn:6:48 pm