

Columbia River Fire & Rescue  
Regular Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
58611 McNulty Way, St. Helens OR 97051  
And Virtual via Teams Meeting  
March 14, 2023, 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, Gary Hudson, Kelly Niles

Absent: None

Others: FC Medina, DC Sanchez, DC Holsey, DC Mendola, DC Smythe, FM Pederson, S. Keith, A Peterson, V. Haney, Q. Curio, M. Gorsuch, D. Marting, R. Conrath, A. Schrotzberger, Rick Fletcher

Via Teams Meeting/Phone In: Kim, K. Lehner, K. Melton, Billy, T. Hennigan, S. Raichel, J. Lehner, Rainier, 5033690821, 5035162138, Amrak, J. Bradley, C. Tullips, M. Holsey, Guest, Angela, R. Callahan, E. Wonderly, R. Ridinger, Me, B. Uhl, R. Adair, KFC, B. Booth, B. Davis, C. Mackay, C. Wacker, L. Strolis, D. King, P. Kish, M. Chandler, 5033966266, B. Guiles, R. Denfeld, RC, J. Pulito

Flag Salute: President Feige led the flag salute

Changes to the agenda: None

Public Comment: Rick Fletcher, Aaron Peterson

Correspondence:

CRFR Consent Agenda: Included in the consent agenda are the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on February 14, 2023. Chief Sanchez provided an overview of the Cash Flow Analysis and answered questions relating to income and expenses on the cash flow analysis. Director Kreutzer moved to approve. Secretary Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, motion carries.

Chief Officers Report: Chief Medina spoke of moving into the admin building and getting the final inspection completed. He discussed the meetings that have taken place with each department to begin the budget planning process. Chief Medina spoke of the land acquisition in Columbia City for a 4<sup>th</sup> fire station. He discussed national advertising for recruiting additional firefighters and paramedics and the strategic plan to have 6 additional members to staff the new station in Columbia City. Contact was made with City of Prescott to have a volunteer station placed there. Chief Medina discussed the removal of apparatus from the ODF facility. Chief Medina updated on the plan for a contingency fund and how the decisions made today will benefit that plan.

Chief Smythe spoke about the vessel acquisition that will be reviewed in the resolutions under new business. One being a marine vessel that will be utilized for firefighting operations. There was discussion about the spires grant and the equipment that could be obtained under that grant to be utilized on the acquired vessels. Director Kreutzer asked about the water vessels and the status of the grant. Chief Smythe went on to discuss the Unimog vessel that is utilized in flood zones.

Chief Medina spoke of the plans to upgrade the fire stations to accommodate more living quarters and update the restrooms. President Feige inquired about the Fairgrounds lease extension. Chief Medina said the county needed to be petitioned first. VP Niles commented on the vacancies at the volunteer stations and how that can be implemented in the plan to house firefighters when the stations undergo upgrades.

Chief Smythe discussed volunteer participation in relation to academics. There have been 14 new applications that have come in for new volunteers. There was discussion regarding recruitment and increasing the numbers. VP Niles commented that EMS-only volunteers were something that was discussed when he was a volunteer but there needs to be a shift in culture so that the volunteers and general staff feel appreciated, and wanted, and that they have something to do. Director Kreutzer had a question regarding the training schedule and Chief Mendola provided clarifications.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Resolution #FY 22-23-27 Federal Excess Property Program, Mercedes Unimog acquisition

Director Kreutzer inquired about where the vessel was from, its uses, and maintenance records. Chief Smythe stated the vessel was from Washington, it was used as a recovery vehicle and for wildland fires, and yes the maintenance dept. reviewed all maintenance records. There was further discussion regarding the cost to outfit and the location where the vessel will be stored. Secretary Hudson made a motion to approve Resolution #FY 22-23-27, Director Kreutzer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, VP Niles abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest, all in favor, motion carries 4-0.

Resolution #FY 22-23-28 Federal Excess Property Program, Valco Bayrunner acquisition

Chief Medina discussed the acquisition of a marine vessel considering all the riverfront property in our district. Director Kreutzer asked where the vessel would be stored. Chief Medina said the boat would be stored at fleet maintenance and a cover would be purchased. There was further discussion about marine operations and the cost associated with training staff, upkeep of equipment, and storing marine vessels.

Director Kreutzer made a motion to approve Resolution #FY 22-23-28, Secretary Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, VP Niles abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest, all in favor, motion carries 4-0.

Board Comments:

Director Kreutzer: Attended fire policy committee meeting and reported people were doing stupid stuff.

Secretary Hudson: Said he stopped by the new admin building and it looked great.

Present Feige: Thanked Aaron for attending tonight. Was a long contract negotiation but everyone learned a lot.

Adjourn: 8:11 pm