

Columbia River Fire and Rescue
Civil Service Commission Meeting
270 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens, OR 97051
January 29, 2026
12 p.m.

Staff Present: Chief Eric Smythe, Chief Examiner W. Scott Jorgensen, Battalion Chief Aaron Schrotzberger and Battalion Chief Eric Wonderly

Commissioners Present: Chair Ricky Linares and Mark Kreutzer

Commissioners Absent: Joel Yarber

Linares called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

New Business: Expiration of Current Lieutenant List

Chief Eric Smythe said that the current list is not viable and only has one candidate. There should be a minimum of two, and three is ideal. There are currently no open positions, but one is anticipated before the end of the fiscal year and another in the following year. A new test will be administered in April. Kreutzer asked if the single candidate would transfer to the next list or have to retake the test. Smythe said that candidate would have to retake the test. One-third of the department is relatively new and there are senior lieutenants who are set to retire. This would allow new candidates to take the test.

Kreutzer moved to expire the current lieutenant list. That motion was seconded by Linares. The motion was approved 2-0, with Kreutzer and Linares voting in favor and none opposed.

Approve New Lieutenant List

Smythe said it will be the same process as the last time, and will be fair and adequate.

Battalion Chief Eric Wonderly gave an overview of the testing process and its eight phases. There are 100 points possible, and 70 are needed to pass. It will serve as a promotional list. Ideally, it should be good for two years. Smythe said he would like it to be good for one year, with the possibility of two years, with the Commission's permission. Wanderly said the testing process is consistent with District Policy 1003. The chief gets the final say on who is promoted.

Linares moved to approve the list for one year, with the possibility of an extension if the Commission agrees. That motion was seconded by Kreutzer. The motion was approved 2-0, with Kreutzer and Linares voting in favor and none opposed.

Linares adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m.