

Columbia River Fire & Rescue  
Regular Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
58611 McNulty Way St. Helens, OR 97051  
And Virtual via Teams Meeting  
May 21, 2024, 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 VP Welby at 6:01 pm.

Present: Ryan Welby, Richard Fletcher, Mark Gundersen, Austin Zimbrick, Paul Rice

Absent: None

Others: Interim Chief Smythe, DC Cole, DC Gorsuch, K. Lehner, M. Chandler & Family

Via Teams Meeting/Phone In: (see attached sheet for attendees)

Flag Salute: VP Welby led the flag salute.

Budget Pinning: Matthew Chandler Promotion to Lieutenant

Swear in the new board member: Paul Rice

Changes to Agenda: Swear in the new board member and OSFM Awards

Public Comment: None

Local 3215 Report: None

Volunteer Report: DC Gorsuch reported that the new volunteer group is active and responding to calls. They completed the live fire and are signed off with task books for FF1 that will take about a year.

Correspondence: None

Award Ribbons presented by DC Gorsuch from OSFM for members that participated in the 2020 Conflagrations. Recognition to: Amy Frigaard, Jim Christiansen, Ben Davis, Jeramy Lehner, Erick Holsey, Michael Gorsuch, and Ian O'Connor.

CRFR Consent Agenda: Included in the consent agenda are the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on April 16, 2024, the check register for April checks, cash flow, and the April bank statement. Secretary Fletcher made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Director Zimbrick 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, approved 4-0/Paul Rice abstained stating it was his first meeting. There was a discussion regarding a check to Oregon Health Authority, Elsa Garcia, Barbara Vance, Cable Houston, and Markowitz.

Chief Officers Report: Chief Smythe gave an update on the 21/22 audit's completion, and the report will be presented at a future board meeting. The 22/23 audit will begin in July and hopefully be completed in August. He went on to brief the board on the status of the St. Helens bathroom repair, which is nearing completion, with crews using the shower facilities in the next 24 hours. Chief Smythe reported that DC Gorsuch had taken a job with the Longview Fire Department so this would be his last board meeting. His last day would be May 24<sup>th</sup>. Carry Wacker with the volunteer organization will be retiring and relocating out of state in June. A special meeting will need to be scheduled next week to approve the resolution for DC Gorsuch final payout. Secretary Fletcher inquired who was performing fire marshal duties. Chief Smythe discussed it was joint responsibility with DC Cole assisting. Director Zimbrick asked about the response with the new staff levels. Secretary Fletcher inquired about the RFP for Legal. Chief Smythe stated the cutoff was June 6<sup>th</sup> with the RFP being presented at the June board meeting. Chief Smythe discussed the engine fire at Deer Island station and the status of the claim. There is cleanup required at the station and vendor bids are being solicited. Director Zimbrick inquired about volunteers looking for FT positions and reimbursement/grant opportunities.

Old Business: None

New Business: Fire Chief Contract for Eric Smythe; A need for consulting an attorney for further clarification on the termination section of the contract was requested. A special meeting was discussed for the following week after consulting with the attorney.

Board Comments:

Secretary Fletcher: Sympathy to Smythe and his family and best of luck to DC Gorsuch.

Director Zimbrick: Hope the best for Sanchez family and best of luck to DC Gorsuch.

VP Welby: Heart goes out to Smythe family, and Sanchez family. Best of luck to Gorsuch.

Director Gundersen: Thanks to Gorsuch

Director Rice: Sympathy to Smythe and his family for the loss of his son.

Adjourn: 18:36