

Columbia River Fire & Rescue  
Regular Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
270 Columbia Blvd, St. Helens OR 97051  
And Virtual via Teams Meeting  
October 10, 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 Niles at 7:00 pm.

Present: Kelly Niles, Richard Fletcher, Ryan Welby, Austin Zimbrick

Absent: None

Others: DC Sanchez, DC Smythe, FM Pederson, K. Lehner, DC Gorsuch, A. Blitz, K. Wright, G. Brody, K. Melton

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

Flag Salute: President Niles led the flag salute.

Changes to agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Local 3215 Report: Aaron Schrotzberger updated on 2 grievances, with one being resolved and one pending currently.

Volunteer Report: None

Correspondence: None

CRFR Consent Agenda: Included in the consent agenda are the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on September 19, 2023, the check register for September checks, and the September bank statement. Director Zimbrick made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Secretary Fletcher 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, approved 4-0. There was a discussion regarding the bank name change, checks to Cable Huston, Merina & Co, Blackbaud, and Wolfe Consulting. Director Zimbrick asked about the increase in legal and accounting expenses, and Chief Sanchez explained the increase was reflective of the decisions the current board had made by authorizing additional investigations, extending the audit, legal fees associated with lawsuits, bank fees/legal fees for the loan, and increase in insurance totaling \$567,233.96.

Chief Officers Report: Chief Smythe updated on the meetings with Local 3215. The next meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Chief Smythe discussed the increase in call volume and asked the board if they had any questions.

Old Business: None

New Business: VP Welby made a motion to schedule interviews for the interim fire chief position based on the recommendations of SDAO and George Dunkel, Director Zimbrick 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. President Niles discussed the cost of the interim chiefs being more than the district can afford and it would mean the layoff of line staff. VP Welby, Director Zimbrick, and Secretary Fletcher agreed to schedule an additional meeting later to be determined to meet with the candidates, including Scappoose Fire District to have conversations.

Chief Smythe discussed the board member vacancy and the public notice posted in the paper. One application has been received, and it was suggested to extend the application period. A public notice has been posted recruiting candidates to fill the vacant Civil Service positions. There was further discussion for an additional meeting a week before the November board meeting to interview board members.

VP Welby made a motion to draft an RFP to obtain new legal counsel, and Director Zimbrick 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. VP Welby discussed what he would look for in hiring a new attorney, such as hourly rate, location in relation to driving distance to meet with the attorney, retainers, and qualifications. VP Welby would like to close by

October 27<sup>th</sup> so there is time for the board to review attorney resumes at a special meeting. President Niles mentioned that it wasn't the greatest move to change horses' mid-race, but VP Welby wanted further discussions. All in favor 4-0.

At 7:28 pm, the board went into closed executive session:

Legal Counsel ORS 192.660 (2)(f)

Labor Negotiator Consultations ORS 192.660 (2)(d)

Employment of Public Officers, Employees, and Agents ORS 192.660(2)(a)

10:04 pm The board came out of closed executive session.

VP Welby made a motion to approach BridgeTech to review IT systems, Secretary Fletcher 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor 4-0.

VP Welby made a motion to direct Jim Band Investigations to include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote of No Confidence, Secretary Fletcher 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor 4-0 motion carries.

Board Comments:

Secretary Fletcher: Good meeting

VP Welby: Good meeting every meeting he feels closer to calming the fire

Director Zimbrick: Looking forward to the future

President Niles: Every meeting there is a better understanding working with the administration.

Adjourn: 10:07pm