

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes

Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: November 12, 2024
Time: 5:15 p.m.
Location: 1101 D St NE, Auburn, WA 98002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Backus called the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) Board of Governance Regular Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

A. Flag Salute

Chair Backus led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call

Chair Nancy Backus(virtual), Vice Chair Troy Linnell, Member Vic Kave, Member Kerry Garberding, Member Lynda Osborn, Member Larry Brown (Excused), Member Bill Thomas, Member Tracy Taylor(virtual), Member Eric Petersen, and Alternate Hanan Amer.(virtual)

Staff members present included Deputy Tim Day, Deputy Chief Rick Olson, CFO Mark Horaski, HR Director Sarah Borden, Legal Council Brian Snure, and Clerk of the Board Stefanie Harper.

C. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations

There were no announcements, proclamations, or presentations.

D. Appointments

There were no appointments.

E. Agenda Modifications

There were no agenda modifications.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS, CITIZEN INPUT, AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Public Hearings

1. 2025 Annual Budgets

There was no public comment(s) submitted prior to the meeting, nor was there anyone from the public in attendance to comment.

2. Assessed Valuation Levy

There was no public comment(s) submitted prior to the meeting, nor was there anyone from the public in attendance to comment.

3. Fire Benefit Charge

There was no public comment(s) submitted prior to the meeting, nor was there anyone from the public in attendance to comment.

B. Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

C. Update from IAFF Local #1352

Firefighter Cory Wallace provided the Board with an update on the IAFF Benevolent Fund's upcoming Toys for Kids event in December. Last year, 971 children were registered for the program. Cory emphasized that the call to serve the community doesn't end when the shift is over and encouraged anyone aware of families in need to contact the Auburn Food Bank to start the registration process. He also urged Board members to reach out to any local organizations that might be willing to donate or contribute to the event. IAFF members are involved in every aspect, from raising funds and purchasing toys to ensuring they get directly into the hands of families in need. Information on how organizations can donate, as well as volunteer opportunities for the event on December 21st, will be distributed soon. Additionally, toy donations can be dropped off at any VRFA station.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

II. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Finance Committee**

Chair Osborn stated that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommended the Board approve Claims and Payroll, and Resolution No. 203.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Kave shared that the subcommittee for the EMS levy has concluded and proposed a rate of 25 cents per \$1,000 assessed value to present to voters. He advocated strongly for increased BLS funding, which resulted in an additional \$5 million annually. While this amount does not fully cover the cost of BLS services, it brings the funding closer to meeting actual needs. The proposal will now go to cities with populations of 50,000 or more for approval, and if passed, it will appear on the ballot next year.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Thompson provided the Board with the following update:

He expressed gratitude to Member Kave for his significant influence on the EMS subcommittee planning process, recognizing its positive impact not only on the VRFA but also on other BLS agencies.

Thanked Firefighter Cory Wallace for presenting the Toys for Kids event update, acknowledging the immense effort Cory contributes to the event's planning and execution.

He highlighted that October's budget overview went smoothly and commended CFO Horaski and his team for their excellent work in preparing the budgets. Chief Thompson emphasized the VRFA's commitment to fiscal responsibility while maintaining a focus on purchasing essential capital equipment and supporting the health and wellness of its membership.

Chief Thompson shared that the bond rating call was recently completed, and a rating decision is expected in two weeks in anticipation of selling the bonds. Updates will follow as progress is made.

Over 120 scouts attended Scout Night last week at Station 33, where they learned about fire safety and other important safety topics. Chief Thompson noted the significant preparation and collaboration required to make the event a success.

He also enjoyed attending the Annual Fall Fundraiser for the Auburn Food Bank Harvest Breakfast, noting the importance of the community coming together to support such a vital organization.

Expressed pride in participating in the Veterans Day Parade, honoring those who have served. The VRFA specifically recognized Captain Pickerel for his service in the U.S. Army from 1991 to 1995 with the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, highlighting his lifelong dedication to serving others.

Finally, he shared the exciting news that the new brush truck has arrived, allowing for proper training before next year's brush fire season.

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered by the Governance Board to be routine and may be approved by one motion.

A. Minutes

The minutes of the October 8, 2024, Regular Meeting and October 29, 2024 Special Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 212295 through 212371 in the amount of \$590,003.46 and electronic payments in the amount of \$84,658.08 totaling \$674,661.54 dated November 13, 2024.

2. Payroll

Payroll electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,660,382.75 for a grand total of \$2,660,382.75 for the period covering October 1, 2024, to October 31, 2024.

There being no further discussion or questions, Vice Chair Linnell moved, and Member Osborn seconded the approval of the Consent Items.

Board member Vic Kave stated for the record at the February 13, 2024, Board meeting that his vote on consent agendas excludes any vote on the payment of his post-retirement medical benefit from which he abstains, so Board member Kave has abstained from Voucher # DFT0011022

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 - 0

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

A. Resolution No. 203

DC Day stated Per Policy 6532 and RCW 39.33.010, the VRFA may dispose of surplus property no longer of value or use. The following items have been deemed surplus due to the closure of the Dive Program and will be sold through Bidadoo, Inc.:

- AF66: A 2001 Aid Car, formerly used as a Dive Unit, has exceeded its lifespan.
- AF69: A 2008 boat and trailer used to support the Dive Program.
- Evinrude Boat Motor: Previously used with the Dive Program.

There being no questions or discussions, Vice Chair Linnell moved, and Member Petersen seconded the approval of the Resolution No 203.

MOTION CARRIED 8 – 1, with ‘no’ vote from Member Kave

X. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Legal Counsel provided an overview of the laws related to providing services to a Tribe within our jurisdiction and our legal obligations. This discussion addressed member questions regarding the current contract between VRFA and the Muckleshoot Tribe, including how the contract and associated costs are presented and managed.

Discussion ensued

XI. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION

There was no executive or closed session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Dated this 10th day of December 2024

Nancy Backus
Nancy Backus
Chair

Stefanie Harper
Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board