

Riverside Fire Authority

Governance Board Meeting October 9, 2024 Minutes

In attendance:

Board Members – Buddy Lowrey, Rick Mack, Joe Dolezal, Mike Rossow, Mike Tomasheck

Administration – Chief Anderson, Stephanie Storey, Misty Henning

Visitors – Mark Pickrell

Chair Lowrey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the agenda with the addition of 6C) Resolution #24-04, EMS Billing, 6D) Lewis County Deposit Waiver and 6E) Station 5 Fire Alarm System Replacement.

Public Input - Mark Pickrell brought a hydrogen power car for the board to look at.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The Following voucher/warrants/electronic payments were approved for payment:
October 9, 2024, Ck # 8030-8070 \$124,896.09

Unfinished Business

CARES Program Update

Chief Anderson and Lt. Shepherd continue to work on SOP development. If draft policies are ready, they will be available at the next board meeting.

Station 6 Reader Board Update

Chief Anderson reported that he is still contacting sign businesses to see if they are willing to submit a bid for a double-sided reader board for Station 6. Currently he has received one bid for approximately \$30,000.

2025 Budget 1st Reading- Reserve Funds

Misty Henning, Finance Officer, reviewed the proposed 2025 Reserve Funds with the board.

New Business

Ambulance Consortium Contract Billing Rates

Chief Anderson informed the board that AMR has informed the Lewis/Grays Harbor Ambulance Consortium that they are requesting to raise their base and mileage rates. The bulk of the patients transported are either Medicare or Medicaid. The cost increase would potentially impact approximately 7% of patients transported. Discussion followed.

Riverside Fire Authority

Governance Board Meeting October 9, 2024 Minutes

October 23, 2024, Board Meeting

Stephanie Slorey, Board Secretary, stated that the majority of the board will be attending the Washington State Fire Commissioners conference in Spokane during the next scheduled board meeting. Discussion took place on rescheduling the meeting. Commissioner Dolezal made a motion¹ to reschedule the October 23 board meeting to October 30. Commissioner Mack seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution #24-04, EMS Billing Rates

Chief Anderson revisited the discussion from the last meeting regarding the RFA increasing our billing rates in preparation for the October 16 filing deadline with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner ahead of the balanced billing legislation changes. The proposed increases are:

BLS Transportation	\$875 to \$975
ALS 1 Transportation	\$1,275 to \$1,375
ALS 2 Transportation	\$1,475 to \$1,575
Mileage	\$20 to \$23 per mile

Chief Anderson also reported that the Chehalis Fire Department has recently increased their rates to the same value as listed above. Commission Tomasheck made a motion² to approve Resolution #24-04, EMS Billing Rates. Commissioner Rossow seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Lewis County Bank Deposit Waiver

Stephanie Slorey, Board Secretary, informed the board that a waiver must be signed and submitted to the Lewis County Treasurer's Office every 2 years for the RFA to deposit monies 1-2 times a week instead of daily due to Umpqua Bank's only branch being in Chehalis. Commissioner Dolezal made a motion³ to authorize the chair to sign the waiver request letter to the Lewis County Treasurer. Commissioner Tomasheck seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Station 5 Fire Panel Replacement

Chief Anderson informed the board that the power pole next to Station 5 was hit during a vehicle accident which he believes pulled the wire from our fire alarm panel and damaged the panel. He will try and find out if the party at fault had insurance and if so, will submit a claim. At this time, the panel needs to be replaced, and he has received a quote for \$8,100. Discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Mack made a motion⁴ to move into executive session at 6:57 p.m. for thirty (30) minutes as provided for in RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) to discuss collective bargaining. There will not be any decision made at the conclusion of the executive session. Commissioner Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

After 30 minutes, staff requested another thirty (30) minutes. An addition ten (10) minutes were requested.

The executive session ended and moved back into regular session at 8:06 p.m.

Riverside Fire Authority

**Governance Board Meeting
October 9, 2024
Minutes**


Good of the Order

Adjourned 8:10 p.m.

Local Board Action Motions:

1. Motion to reschedule October 23 meeting to October 30.
2. Motion to approve Resolution #24-04, EMS Billing Rates.
3. Motion to approve Bank Deposit Waiver.
4. Motion to adjourn into Executive Session.

Minutes submitted by: , Chair Lowrey

, Board Secretary