

Riverside Fire Authority

Governance Board Meeting September 25, 2024 Minutes

In attendance:

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

Administration – Chief Anderson, Chief Olson, Stephanie Slorey, Misty Henning and Laura Hanson

Visitors – Mark Pickrell, Diane Kytta

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, Staff Vehicle and 6D, Station 2 Phone System.

Public Input - Inquiry was made if zoom would be available for the board meetings. Chief Anderson stated that at this time the video/audio equipment and software are not equipped to provide that service. Staff is looking at adding money to next years budget to upgrade the system.

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

The Following voucher/warrants/electronic payments were approved for payment:

<i>September 23, 2024</i>	<i>Use Tax</i>	<i>\$65.27</i>
<i>September 25, 2024</i>	<i>Ck # 8010-8028</i>	<i>\$238,980.89</i>

Unfinished Business

CARES Program Update

Chief Anderson and Lt. Shepherd continue to work on SOP development. The MOU with Local #451 is still under negotiations regarding the upcoming new CARES employee. Chief Anderson plans to bring the draft SOP's to the first meeting in October for board consideration.

Station 6 Reader Board Update

Chief Anderson has continued to solicit quotes from sign companies. So far, one company has stated that they have no interest in submitting a quote for a sign at Station 6 and another company has submitted an estimate of approximately \$30,000, and another company has not responded to our request. Laura Hanson, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, stated that she has been working with the Silver Agency to increase the radius size of the reach of Facebook posts/advertisement to hopefully reach more people out the Lincoln Creek Valley.

2025 Budget 1st Reading

Misty Henning, Finance Officer, reviewed the proposed 2025 expenses for the General Fund and EMS Fund.

Refund Levy: Chief Anderson discussed his meeting with the county assessor for the projected outlook on the refund that Sierra Pacific will receive after they contested their assessed value for 2021, 2022 and 2023. A settlement was reached by the Lewis County Commissioners, Lewis County Prosecutor and Sierra Pacific without going to court. We were told that Riverside Fire Authority's portion of the refund

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would be \$159,000 and will be withdrawn from our funds by the county. Refunds could be asked to be reinstated by spreading out the amount amongst the RFA citizens. A decision will be made during the budgeting process in the coming weeks. Discussion followed.

Tender Update

Chief Olson gave a report on the trip to South Dakota that he and Lt. Wise took. A final inspection on the new tender was done over a 3-day period. Our staff identified a malfunction that will be addressed and fixed before it leaves the factory. Delivery is still scheduled for late October.

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Update

Laura Hanson, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, gave a monthly update on the volunteer program.

New Business

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal and Promotional Applicant Review

Chief Anderson informed the board that there was one internal applicant for the Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal, four applications for Lieutenant and one applicant for Captain. Chief Anderson stated he will continue to explore the qualifications of the one applicant for Asst. Chief/Fire Marshal with the goal of hire being January 21, 2025. Promotional applicants review and assessment center will take place in November.

Impact Fees

Chief Anderson discussed the potential of charging for impact fees for the RFA and surrounding districts. Verbiage must be included in the Comprehensive Plan updates for Lewis County and the City of Centralia. Staff will continue to evaluate the issue and will report back the board. Chief Anderson discussed the possibility of budgeting for a study of impact fees in the 2025 budget. Discussion followed.

Staff Vehicle

Chief Olson briefed the board that an opportunity to purchase a staff vehicle has come available. A Chevy Tahoe has come available on the state bid list and is on the lot at Bud Cleary in Longview. This vehicle would accommodate the new position, Asst. Chief/Fire Marshal. This vehicle was budgeted for 2024, so funds are available. Discussion followed. Commissioner Dolezal made a motion¹ to authorize Chief Anderson to execute an agreement to purchase a Chevy Tahoe through the state purchase and necessary equipment for emergency operations. Commissioner Tomasheck seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Station 2 Phone System

Chief Anderson informed the board that the hardware of the phone system at Station has failed and is not repairable due to the age of the system. WarMur Electric has installed three phones that we will lease until a new system is installed. We are soliciting bids from Toledo Tel, WarMur Electric and Capital Business. Chief Anderson will update the board on the progress of the replacement at the next board meeting. Discussion followed.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Rossow made a motion' to move into executive session at 6:35 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 ten (10) minutes.

The executive session ended and moved back into regular session at 7:15 p.111.

Good of the Order

Adjourned 7:25 p.m.

Local Board Action Motions:

1. Motion to authorize Chief Anderson to execute agreement for purchase of a Chevy Tahoe,
2. Motion to move into Executive Session.

Minutes submitted by: Brian C., Chair Lowrey

Stephanie Slarey Board Secretary