

Riverside Fire Authority

Governance Board Meeting November 13, 2024 Minutes

In attendance:

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

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

Visitors – Diane Kytta, Terry Ternan

Chair Lowrey called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the agenda with the deletion of the Exec. Session.

Public Input - None

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

*The Following voucher/warrants/electronic payments were approved for payment:
November 13, 2024, Ck # 8158-8193 \$29,231.12*

Unfinished Business

2024 Budget Position: October 2024 Property Tax Revenue Update

Misty Henning, Finance Officer, reviewed the October 2024 Budget Position report with the board. October is when the RFA receives the second batch of property tax revenues. Discussion followed.

2025 Budget Update/2024 Year End Balances and 2025 Administrative Refund Review

Misty Henning, Finance Officer, reviewed the 2025 budget updates for revenues, expenses and reserve funds along with the anticipated year balances for 2024. Chief Anderson discussed three options for the board to consider requesting the Administrative Refunds that were sent out by the LC Treasurer's Office. The first option was to request the full amount of \$221,302.37; the second option was to request the amount of \$43,768.37 after deducting \$177,534.00 in savings from dispatch fees which will now be funded by the new 911 use tax; and the third option would request \$18,800.00 which is the highest we could ask without having our levy rate exceed \$1.35. Discussion followed regarding the estimated impact on the levy rates. Commissioner Tomasheck made a motion¹ to accept option 2, an ask for a partial refund of \$43,768.37. Commissioner Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Administrative Wages

Chief Anderson submitted a request for COLA/Wage increases for administrative staff after making a wage comparison with comparable fire departments. The proposal was for 3.1% COLA and to be brought up to 100% of wage scale for both the chief and assistant chief, 5% COLA for the Finance Officer and Board Secretary and wage adjustment for the administrative assistant to \$25.20/hr and wage adjustment for the Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. Discussion followed with Commissioner Tomasheck not in favor of bringing the fire chief to the top of his scale. Commissioner Rossow made a motion² to approve the submitted COLA/Wage increases for all administrative staff and chief officers. Commissioner Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1.

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Assistant Chief of Prevention Position

Chief Anderson reviewed a draft contract for the Assistant Chief of Prevention position. After discussion was conducted, it was asked that Chief Anderson submit it to our legal counsel for approval and then bring it back to the board for discussion and/or approval.

New Business

HAAS Alert Program

Chief Olson informed the board that new technology is being implemented into new apparatus. This system will work with vehicles who also have this technology and will alert them to either an emergency vehicle that is approaching or that they are approaching an emergency scene. There were two short videos shown to the commissioners.

Operations Update: Fleet, Facilities and Personnel

Centralia Chehalis Coop

Chief Olson and Chief Anderson attended a meeting at the Centralia Chehalis Coop (bus garage) to discuss fleet scheduling for maintenance. Their EVT mechanics are attending training to keep their certification up to date. RFA staff who the bus garage will be in contact with are the following in order:

1. Lt. Brandon Wise
2. Assistant Chief Olson
3. Chief Anderson
4. FFPM Wyatt Hill

Engine 8

Chief Olson stated that Engine 8 is still slated to be received in April 2025. He is in contact with KME regarding the status of the engine. He stated that communication with KME has been disappointing but is staying on top of the progress of the engine.

Load Testing

Load testing has been done in all facilities. Some issues have been identified and are being taken care of.

Surplus Items

Surplus items are being compiled and a resolution will be brought to the board for their approval soon.

Personnel Training

Chief Olson discussed which of our career staff have been helping with the career monthly training program. There has been 2,500 hrs of career training to date for 2024.

Certification Classes

Riverside Fire Authority hosted a FFII certification class. There were twenty-six attendees with four being RFA staff. All RFA officers are Officer 1 certified. Captain Layton has completed his Officer 2 training as well.

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Testing

There were 14 FFEMT applicants that made it through the physical testing. The top seven will move on to chief interviews on November 20.

There were 5 RFA staff who participated in the promotional testing process. Lieutenant testing had four participants and Captain position had one. Tabulation of scores is in process.

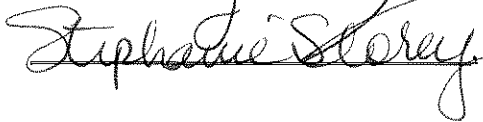
Good of the Order

Adjourned 6:40 p.m.

Local Board Action Motions:

1. Motion to accept option two, an ask for a partial refund of \$43,768.37.
2. Motion² to approve the submitted COLA/Wage increases for all administrative staff and chief officers.

Minutes submitted by:  Chair Lowrey

 Board Secretary