

Riverside Fire Authority

Governance Board Meeting

March 12, 2025

Minutes

In attendance:

Board Members – Joe Dolezal, Mike Tomasheck, Buddy Lowrey and Mike Rossow

Absent: Richard Mack

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

Visitors – Diane Kytta, A Shift

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

Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the agenda as submitted (moving Executive Session to the beginning of the meeting).

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:

<i>March 12, 2025,</i>	<i>Ck # 8459-8484</i>	<i>\$51,123.44</i>
<i>March 12, 2025,</i>	<i>Ck # 8496-8542</i>	<i>\$72,614.41</i>

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Tomasheck made a motion to move into executive session at 5:15 p.m. for twenty (20) minutes as provided for in RCW 42.30.110(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. Commissioner Lowrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

After twenty (20) minutes, staff requested another ten (10) minutes.

The executive session ended and moved back into the regular session at 5:45 p.m. with no action being taken.

Unfinished Business

Zoom Meetings or other Alternatives

Chief Anderson gave an update regarding a contractor who came to Station 2 to look at the AV equipment for AV equipment updates. Chief Anderson also spoke with the RFA IT vendor regarding whether other agencies stream, record or both along with how recordings are retained. It was stated that a platform called AV Capture is being used by many other entities. This platform is a subscription-based business. Discussion followed.

New Business

Medicare Cost Survey

Chief Anderson informed the board that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is requiring providers of ground ambulance services across the nation to submit a comprehensive cost report survey.

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If a report is not submitted, the CMS will assess a 10% penalty payment reduction in Medicare payments under Medicare Part B Ambulance Fee Schedule for the following calendar year (2026). The consulting company who helps prepare the RFA GEMT cost report offers services to help with the Medicare cost survey. Their fee ranges from \$2,500 for basic training up to \$35,000 for full service. Discussion took place on whether it was responsible for the RFA to spend more money by hiring the consulting firm to help with the cost survey which could possibly be more than the 10% penalty. Commissioner Tomasheck was concerned that if we do not comply with Medicare, that that could possibly affect the RFA in the future. Commissioner Lowrey made a motion¹ to accept the fire chief's recommendation to not submit the Medicare cost survey and accept the 10% Medicare payment receipt penalty in a future year. Commissioner Rossow seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Tomasheck voting against the motion.

Fire Marshal Update

Chief Anderson and Chief Ternan gave an overview of projects that have been scheduled for Fire Marshal inspections. Chief Anderson informed the board that Chief Ternan has been doing an excellent job of learning the ins and outs of the position. Chief Anderson stated that he is continuing to mentor Chief Ternan and commented that Chief Ternan is taking the initiative to do research on different areas of the job. Chief Ternan will be attending upcoming fire marshal training.

Higher Education / Tax Exempt Fire Protection

Commissioner Dolezal inquired about any information that had been received regarding other fire departments who may have a contract with higher education and/or tax-exempt businesses for fire protection. Chief Anderson stated that Centralia School District is the only educational entity that the RFA receives compensation for fire protection. Discussion took place on reaching out to non-profit entities and working to create a fire protection agreement.

First Responder Conference

Commissioner Dolezal, Lowrey and Rossow gave an overview of the First Responder Conference that they attended. Valuable information was provided that they were able to bring back and share with the RFA.

Excess Vacation Leave Conversion Request – K Anderson


This agenda item was tabled and will be brought back to the board at a later date.

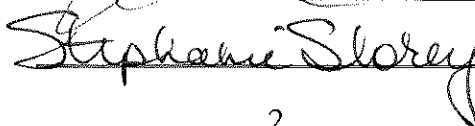
Good of the Order

Adjourned 6:42 p.m.

Local Board Action Motions:

1. Motion to accept a 10% Medicare penalty.

Minutes submitted by: , Vice Chair Dolezal

 Board Secretary