



## Board of Fire Commissioners

### Special Meeting Minutes October 7, 2021

Clark County Fire District 5  
11606 NE 66th Street, Suite 103  
Vancouver, WA 98662

---

#### Call Meeting to Order

Chair Gibson called the in-person Special Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Commissioners Lyons and Rhine were present. Also present at the meeting were District Administrator Jennifer Bethke and Riza Russum. VFD Chief Brennan Blue and IAFF Local 452 representative Sam Harrison joined the meeting virtually.

Public invited to the meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81065246129?pwd=UEpnUEE5dUFPN3JuWXVJcHIQbXMydz09>

Meeting ID: 810 6524 6129

Passcode: 101724

#### Chief's Q & A

Commissioner Lyons asked if Chief Blue is looking for the Fire District 5 Commissioners to communicate to the Vancouver City Council the Board's support of fire services enhancement. Chief Blue replied it is the intent. His presentation to the City Council at the October 4, 2021 workshop is only the first step. The city council will look at financing options on their side without putting the fire services agreement in jeopardy. The 20% increase in population of the Fire District 5 and City of Vancouver service area resulted to a 24% increase in calls. Vancouver Fire Department is unable to sustain the growth and has been struggling to meet the required response times for the last five years.

Commissioner Rhine requested better communication and discussion between VFD and Fire District 5 regarding funding sources. One of the challenges is the authority for a fire district to collect Impact Fees remains solely under the authority of the Clark County Commissioners.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to express the Board's support to the fire department's service enhancements by re-stating items in the current fire services agreement from September 26, 2016.

Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Board, with their limitations, has re-affirmed their commitment. There will be a resolution with the supportive language for Commissioners' signatures at the November 2, 2021 regular board meeting.

Building Fire Station 11, located at 9606 NE 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, is a great improvement to address the growth in the Orchards/Sifton area. This station can support and lighten the load of nearby busy stations. Fire District 5 is going to fund Station 11 operations 90%/10% split in years 2023 and 2024 given the station is



operational in fall 2022. Beginning 2025, the District will be paying their proportionate share 22.8% for Station 11.

### **2022 Budget Items**

The tabled items on Staff Report 2021-051 – 2022 Budget Considerations were discussed. Administrator Bethke reported on the financial differences.

Commissioner Gibson moved to adopt the updated compensation policy. Commissioner Rhine seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Commissioner Gibson moved to approve a 3.3% COLA for regular employees for 2022. Commissioner Rhine seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Commissioner Gibson moved to accept the 2% annual merit increase in the compensation policy. Commissioner Rhine seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Commissioner Gibson moved to levy 101% of 2021 assessed valuation for 2022 collection. Commissioner Lyons seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Commissioner Gibson moved to continue paying the full medical premium for full-time employees. Commissioner Lyons seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed.

### **District's Financial Feasibility for Resource Ask**

Administrator Bethke presented the Board with calculations, based on different scenarios proposed by the City of Vancouver's Budget Office, for the District's contribution for increased staffing and capital expenditures. The Board discussed the different funding options available to them, and will have future discussions on this subject.

No action was taken.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Gibson adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Roy L. Rhine", written over a horizontal line.

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, "Roy L. Rhine", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, "J. L. Bethke", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary to the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, "Michael Gibson", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner