

**West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority
Regular Meeting**

119 NE Church Street White Salmon WA 98672.

Thursday October 16, 2025. 6:30pm.

- ❖ **The meeting was called to order by Chair Thomas Montag at 18:30.**
- ❖ **Flag Salute.**
- ❖ **Attendance:**
WKRFA Governing Board: Quorum: Thomas Montag, David Lindley, Ben Giant, Robert Connor, Charles Virts.
Absent: Jason Hartmann.
Advisory groups/staff: Chief Long, Thomas Crumpacker, Rozalind Plumb, Eric Bosler

- ❖ **Agenda:**
“Motion to approve the agenda” made by Ben Giant second by Charles Virts, (4 in favor, 0 opposed) motion passed.

- ❖ **Minutes of the last Meeting.**
“Move to approve the minutes from September 18th, 2025.” Made by Charles Virts, second by David Lindley (4 in favor, 0 opposed) motion passed.

- ❖ **Public Comments:** Robert Connor noted the burn Ban has been rescinded.

- ❖ **Administrative Secretary’s report**
 - The financial report was reviewed. Discussion on the line items that are currently under budget. Some items (stipend, travel and meals) will see activity between now and the end of the year. The capital reserve will be deposited at the end of the year once we know the full amount received from the levy taxes.
 - Payment of stipends is scheduled to cover December 2024 through November 2025.
 - Approval of the scripts.

Date	Amount
09/24/25	281.22
10/06/25	9,176.47
10/07/25	1,246.73
10/08/25	12,802.83

- “Motion to approve the scripts made by Ben Giant, second by David Lindley. (4 yay, 0 opposed) motion passed.*

- ❖ **Fire Chief’s Report** –See attached by Chief Long.

Firefighter Jure Poberaj will be starting on Monday 20th October.

Fleet – There are several minor items to be addressed by the mechanic. Pump testing is scheduled for Engines and tenders.

Wildfire mitigation projects around White Salmon are in progress. DNR is managing this project. The area along Highway 14 was not completed to satisfaction and additional work is being planned. The poor result is a product of Washington state lowest bid rules.

Chief attended a meeting in Moses Lake that is also leading to great ideas and possible partnerships for a community wildfire coordinator for the county.

Mount Adams Resource Stewards are also active and a great resource in the area.

Discussions on using prescribed fire for fuels reduction on private lands as a tool to create fuel breaks.

❖ **Training Report:** See attached by Captain Crumpacker.

Correction on the training report submitted. We have more volunteers. The Annual fire Academy for the Gorge has been suspended due to the amount of work involved by the trainers who volunteer to teach. Chief noted that we need to deliver basic recruit academy. We do not have the training grounds to be able to train effectively. Chief and Captain Crumpacker are searching for ways to provide in-house training that will meet standards.

❖ **Volunteer Representative Report.** Eric Bosler reported that there has been little activity for fundraising from the Volunteer Firefighters Association. Everybody's brewing may be running a campaign to raise funds in November and December.

❖ **Information Only Items.**

- Roz has met with the City of White Salmon ensure coordination on a first amendment auditors policy that will work for both agencies for Station 30.

❖ **Unfinished Business- Follow -up Items.**

1. IT Services – Coordinating with the city to move the Public Works Server out of the center office and down to the public works office. There are additional wires in the radio room that will be moved. Cost will have to be paid by WKRFA as the lease agreement states the building is leased 'AS IS'. Roz has also spoken to Jennifer Neil about the \$25,000 reserve funds that were removed from the City Fire Reserve funds in August 2024 to help pay for the RFA transition. Those funds do not appear to have been transferred with deposit made in February 2025 to the RFA.
2. ADA walkway at station 31. The request for bids is being updated and will be sent out before next meeting.
3. Snowden In Ground Tanks. – Chief noted tanks have been tested. PCBs were not indicated in the test but there is considerable hydrocarbon sludge in the water layers. Waiting for confirmation on the actual chemical makeup of the oil. One tank is only ½ full and the other is full. Options to remove the water are being reviewed. Bids will have to be sought for cleaning the inside and removing all residue.

❖ **Discussion Items/Action Items**

1. **Resolutions-** None this month. November will see the resolution for 2026 Budget.

2. **Policies-**

- *Hiring – Selection, Recruitment, Retention.*

The policy is being redrafted to be shorter and linked to Standard/Best Practice procedures in a separate document which will be easier to adapt in the future. There is clarification needed on the best process for career and volunteer hiring.

3. **Agreements.**

- New Firefighter agreement is still to be signed by Board Chair, Chief and Jure Poberaj before he starts on October 20th.
- Columbia Scenic Area – Chief has cancelled the agreement that was in place for Klickitat County Fire District 3 as it has been replaced by the agreement with WKRFA.

4. **2026 Operating Budget**

- Review of the estimated revenue.

2025				
	Assessed Value	per 1000	rate	Total tax
RFA	\$ 1,768,749,499.00	\$ 1,768,749.50	\$ 0.76	\$ 1,344,249.62

County updated 10/13/2025				
2026 estimated request				\$1,375,968.31
	Assessed Value	per 1000	rate	Total tax
	\$ 1,870,453,160.00	\$ 1,870,453.16	\$ 0.76	\$ 1,421,544.40
RFA	\$ 1,870,453,161.00	\$ 1,870,453.16	\$ 0.735633663	\$ 1,375,968.31

Following the standard procedures set by the state, fire districts can request 1% over the previous year’s lawful levy. This would increase the actual tax revenue by 1% (from \$1,344,249.62 to \$1,375,968.31). Due to the increases in the Assessed Value of the area, the rate per \$1000 of property value would decrease from \$0.76 to \$0.74. Discussion on whether the RFA is able to maintain the rate at \$0.76 (and therefore increase tax revenue to \$1,421,544.40 a difference of \$45,576.09). The board requested legal counsel to clarify.

Discussion on the budget by category. Review of the budget categories and expenditures for 2026.

Wages/salaries and benefits. – largest part of the budget and includes new staffing. There have been some growing pains with the addition of shift work which calculates differently from a regular 40-hour work week.

Overall – using the 1% increase the budget is currently \$18,000 over budget. The Board were not concerned as the 2025 budget will be underspent and the reserve will be rolled over. The expectation is to have more than the 1% increase after confirmation from legal counsel.

Brief discussion on the salaries and wages for 2026. Board will need to make decision for the 2026 contracts.

The budget will go to the Budget Hearing on November 20th. The Board can then confirm the budget following the Hearing in regular Board meeting.

5. **Strategic Planning Workshop** – Chief requested the board discuss the financial plan for the future and capital replacement. Other items for planning include training and operations for the future. A date will be set before the end of this year.

6. **Other Discussion Items**

- EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed per RCW 42.30.110).

Reason:

Review the performance of public employees. (Chief Long)

Authorized under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g).

(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public;

- Broke for Executive Session at 19:55
- Time the meeting will re-open to the public 20:07
- Extension to 20:12.
- **Opened public meeting. 20:12.**
- The board reported a positive staff evaluation.

❖ **Action items** – covered by item above.

❖ **Good of the order.**

- Charles Virts noted Bill Andrade of AA&L has passed away and wanted to acknowledge the great service he performed for the district over the years on vehicle maintenance. We are glad to have his son take over the business.

❖ **Next Meeting:**

Budget Hearing and Regular Board meeting November 20th, 2025, 18:30. Location: Station 30, 119 NE Church Street White Salmon.

❖ **Motion to adjourn made by Ben Giant seconded by Bob Connor. (4 in favor 0 opposed).**

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 20:16.

APPROVED:


WKRFA Chair -Thomas Montag (date)

Attest:


Secretary Rozalind Plumb