

WKRFA West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority
Regular Meeting

119 NE Church Street White Salmon WA 98672.

Thursday August 20, 2026. 6:30pm.

- ❖ The meeting was called to order by Chair Thomas Montag at 18:31.
- ❖ Flag Salute.
- ❖ Attendance:
WKRFA Governing Board: Quorum: Thomas Montag, David Lindley (Via zoom), Ben Giant, Robert Connor, Charles Virts.
Absent: Morella Mora
Advisory groups/staff: Chief Long, Jennifer McLean, Eric Bosler, Rozalind Plumb,
Public:
- ❖ Agenda:
"Move to approve the agenda for 8/20/26 as presented." Made by Ben Giant, second by Robert Connor (4 in favor, 0 opposed) motion passed.
- ❖ Minutes of the last Meeting.
"Move to approve the minutes for July 16/21, 2026." made by Charles Virts, second by Ben Giant, (4 in favor, 0 opposed) motion passed.
- ❖ Public Comments: None noted.
- ❖ Administrative Secretary's report (see attached)
 1. 10% of RFA tax revenues are to be moved to capital. The request to transfer funds was submitted but the process was carried out incorrectly at the Treasurer's office. The error in the transfer caused the general fund to be low, and the treasurer matured additional funds out of the investment pool to cover the shortfall. Staff were not informed of the additional withdrawal and only saw the errors when the treasurer's report was sent out almost a month after the event. Jennifer has contacted the Treasurer and requested corrections. Discussion on whether the RFA lost funds in late fees. No fees were charged, but withdrawing additional funds from investments will have reduced any interest earned.
 2. Approval of the scripts and ACH payments.
Move to approve the scripts in the following order for July 21st \$60,048.81, July 28th \$757.53, August 4th \$8,446.12, August 6th \$14,077.39, August 10th \$33,296.090, and ACH payments for July 9th in the following amounts \$30,798.27, \$8,888.79, \$7,737.31, and \$1,117.41." Made by Ben Giant, second by Charles Virts, (4 yay, 0 opposed) motion passed.

❖ **Fire Chief's Report** –See attached report by Chief Long.

Additional information: Recruiting is up and this will trigger additional costs for PPE and radios. Our goal is to have 60 volunteers. We have 36 active members on the roster with new volunteers still working through the process. We have lost a couple of members to fulltime firefighting careers.

Wildfire – it has been a record-breaking fire season across the state. The lightning storms of early august are still producing new fires.

Office of insurance Commission – There are reports tracking the frequency of insurance companies dropping coverage. 2024 started seeing a rise in insurance companies dropping customers in White Salmon and other areas. The fires in Spokane will affect everybody's insurance. Chief now has contact with the Insurance commissioner who is concerned about the current WSRB ratings.

❖ **Training Report:** See report attached report by Captain Crumpacker. The online training is proving very helpful to ensure everyone is getting standard employee training completed.

❖ **Volunteer Representative Report.**

1. The Association has agreed to purchase radio harnesses to help protect the hand held radios.
2. The association is planning to engage in the White Salmon Christmas Lights event.

❖ **Information Only Items.**

Chief has approved a couple of agreements.

1. Department of Enterprise Services (DES) – for group purchasing benefits.
2. LifeScan – Washington Fire Commissioners Health insurance plan has partnered with LifeScan to cover NFPA Firefighter physicals. This partnership will cover the cost for the NFPA required physical exams for career staff. RFA will have to cover the firefighter travel time to the exams which are currently in Vancouver. LifeScan offers additional tests outside of the NFPA standard. The RFA would need to authorize paying for any additional tests.
3. Commissioner Montag noted that staff annual reviews are due. Bob Connor and David Lindley agreed to perform the review.
4. KCFD3 State audit is scheduled in September – Staff will be working with the Sate to provide requested documentation for 2023-2025 for KCFD3. (WKRFA Audit is scheduled for 2027).

❖ **Unfinished Business.**

❖ **Discussion Items/Action Items**

1. **Resolutions** - None
2. **Policies.** – None
3. **Agreements.** – DES and LifeScan approved by Chief Long.

4. **Other Discussion Items-**

- A. **IAFF Local 5172-Collective Bargaining.** Still waiting for a date to meet. No further information.

B. Strategic Planning.

- Fleet replacement – Last meeting Chief gave estimates to
 - Replace 1 Type-1 Engine (\$600,000 to 750,000),
 - Replace 1 Brush Engine (\$111,847)
 - Replace 1 Command vehicle (\$63,000)
 - Proposal to surplus and sell the Ambulance (recover funds)
 - Proposal to convert U-30 to rapid response/BLS Aid (\$15,000).
- Discussion on Engine costs knowing that there is another Type-1 Engine to be replaced within the next 5 years. Chief provided an example of a used engine. Buying used does not solve the long-term goal and creates shorter replacement intervals. A new Engine purchase would require downpayment for the chassis then the final payment on delivery (18-22 months later).
- Discussion on the finances available in the general and capital funds and financing options. Ben Giant noted that municipal financing at 4% with a 10-year note, would keep resources available to complete the lower cost projects. The cost of engines is increasing, so purchasing now will be cheaper than waiting. We would not draw down our cash reserves and so maintain flexibility to deal with unforeseen issues.
- Ambulance (A31)– Purchased in 2016 to replace an aging used ambulance. The County ALS System transports patients and has improved coverage over the last 10 years with increased ambulances and staffing in their fleet. A31 has been used to transport a patient twice in 10 years. It requires a specific EMS Ambulance License. Chief noted that he has looked at trying to use the ambulance to generate funds, either by sending it out on fire mobilizations, or interfacility transfers. The issue has always been that we do not have the staff to carry out those projects. Charles Virts agreed that an ambulance is not required in the fleet. The agency would be better served with a rapid response aid vehicle that carries BLS medical equipment and has additional fire suppression, and utility capabilities. The Board agreed to surplus the ambulance at the next meeting. Funds from the sale of the ambulance will help pay for other projects.

Motion to declare the ambulance surplus to the needs of the agency made by Charles Virts, second by Robert Connor, (4 in favor 0 opposed). Motion passed.

- Discussion on setting a financial plan for the next 10 or more years by the RFA. Board requested a dedicated session for strategic planning.
- ***Strategic Planning meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 12th. 9am Station 31 Husum.***
- Chief noted the focus will be on Fleet replacement but reminded the board that staffing levels, and facilities adequate to house staff should not be forgotten.

- ❖ **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (as needed per RCW 42.30.110). – None needed.
- ❖ **Action items** – covered above.

- ❖ **Good of the order.** Robert Connor noted the association BBQ was a great event for the families.
- ❖ **Next Meeting:**
Regular Board meeting Thursday September 17th 18:30. Location: Station 30, 119 NE Church Street White Salmon.
- ❖ ***"Motion to adjourn," made by Robert Connor, seconded by Ben Giant (4 in favor 0 opposed). Motion passed.***
Meeting adjourned 19:16.

APPROVED:



WKRFA Chair -Thomas Montag (date)

Attest:



Administrative Manager - Rozalind Plumb