South Beach Regional Fire Authority, PO Box 1195, Westport, WA 98595

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday October 8, 2026-5:00 PM
708 S Englewood Lane, Westport, WA 98595

Call Meeting to Order:

The South Beach Regional Fire Authority Governance Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson Alfred Schroeder representing Commissioner District Four at 5:00 PM. In attendance were the following Board Members: Alfred Schroeder representing Commissioner District Four, David McLellan, Vice Chairman representing Commissioner District Three, Sam Schlegel representing Commissioner District Five, Tom Bearden representing District Two present. Tom Aronson representing District One absent. Fire Chief Daryl Brown, Assistant Fire Chief David Uhler present. Administrative Assistant Teresa Hart absent. Diane McNett, Administrative Assistant present.

Audience:

JoAnne Bearden, Westport Citizen, Cyprien Ravary, Captain PM FF--SBRFA President Local 3689, Chris Nicholson, PM FF-SBRFA, Destiny Bramstedt EMT FF-SBRFA, Ian VanDoren EMT FF-SBRFA, Brenna VanderVeur, EMT FF-SBRFA Secretary Local 3689, Kelsey Linker, EMT FF-SBRFA, Jake Finigan, PM FF-SBRFA, Trisha Hubbard, PM FF-SBRFA, Darin VanderVeur Westport Citizen, Melissa Stutts, Westport Citizen.

Flag Salute:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda Modifications:

There were none.

Announcements, Proclamations, Presentations:

None.

Public Comments:

There were requests from Cyprien Ravary, SBRFA President Local 3689 and Chris Nicholson Local 3689 member for the opportunity to speak.

Chairman Schroeder asked for Cyprien Ravery to speak first. Cyprien Ravary begam: "My name is Cyprien Ravary, President IAFF 3689. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am here on behalf of not only South Beach Fire and EMS Local 3689 but our volunteer and part-time members as well. I first want to express the deep disappointment that we all have with our administration. Over the last almost 2 years we have seen a steady decline in employee relations, staffing and we feel that we are often disregarded. Especially when it comes to health and safety issues, including adequate staffing. We have seen it become a just do as you are told type posturing. We've even seen some actions which could

be interpreted as retaliation. In fact, we recently had a member receive a certified mail which threatened their employment due to certification (outside of their control due to an ongoing investigation) they are not the only member of the department that is named in the investigation, yet the threat of termination is still present. And all of our members have expressed that they would say something about issues but they themselves are afraid of being retaliated against.
Station 2: North Cove: I want to make it very clear that all our members have a desire to staff station 2, we also can see the benefit in staffing this historically understaffed area. All we have asked is that this be done the right way. Health and safety, including staffing need to be addressed appropriately. We will gladly and proudly serve our 2 staffed stations if given the appropriate foundation to do so. We have engaged the International Association of Firefighters and WSCFF for consultation on these matters as they are significant in nature. In the spirit of collaboration and transparency, we ask that Local 3689 be put on future board agendas so that we may give a report from the Union. Thank you for your time and dedication to the citizens of South Beach and your Firefighters."

Chris Nicholson, Local 3689 then spoke noting that he was in agreement with Cyprien Ravary regarding the lack of leadership from the Chiefs. Chris added that the Union in no way would compromise care for the citizens of Westport due to the concerns voiced regarding the Chief's.

Commissioner Bearden stated he would like to know more about this issue as he and the board members have not been made aware of any problems. Noted also was that the Chiefs are aware that when there are problems, whatever they may be, they are encouraged to bring them to the board.
All commissioners present were unaware of any situations that would cause the union to be concerned. Noted was that the letter sent to the employee did not indicate termination or any word that would indicate that this was of consideration. Commissioner Schlegel stated he "liked the Union and felt they did a really good job."

It was suggested that the Union may want to meet with the Commissioners, Secretary McNett stated she would need to contact our attorney to see how this would be achieved.

Consent Agenda:

a. **Approval of Governance Minutes Meeting September 10, 2026:** David McLellan made a motion to approve September 10, 2026, minutes as written. Motion seconded by Tom Bearden. Motion carried.
b. **Approval of Payroll 10-01-2026 through 10-31-2026 totaling $232,965.56:** Tom Bearden made a motion to approve the payroll from 10-01-2026 through 10-31-2026 totaling $232,965.56. Motion seconded by David McLellan. Motion carried.
c. **Approval of Voucher 2026-389 through Voucher 2026-426 total $69,329.17:** Sam Schlegel made a motion to approve Voucher 2026-389 through Voucher 2026-426 totaling $69,329.17. Motion seconded by Tom Bearden. Motion carried.

SIGNING OF VOUCHERS: Board members signed the vouchers.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Commissioner District One Tom Aronson: Absent.
Commissioner District Two Tom Bearden: Tom Bearden stated he would like the board members to write a bio about themselves. He would like to know more about each commissioner and their past and current professions.
Commissioner District Three David McLellan: David McLellan again noted what a great job Alvaro has done on the training center.
Commissioner District Four Fred Schroeder: None.
Commissioner District Five Sam Schlegel: Sam Schlegel again added his appreciation and thanks to the crew for what they do.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Daryl Brown:

Bond Update: Currently working on completion of the 2027 Budget for approval. Once approved this will trigger the work of creating a 10-year financial forecast required for our bond rating. We also have been in contact with the State Auditor's office, as we will be required to have an updated financial audit from 2022 to 2025. We are expected to begin by the end of the month.
Emergency Generator: Chief stated he is currently hung up with permitting at the county. We have made some movement this week. I am hopeful of having the concrete pad completed by the end of the month.
Training Center Update: Exterior refresh of the Training Center is complete. I have scheduled a readiness party to begin putting it back into operation. Goal is to be up and running by the end of the month.
Budget Workshop: We had a productive budget workshop in late September. Thank you to those that were able to come. Later in the meeting we will be able to brush over our Long Range plan.
2018 Freightliner Tender (Turkey Tender) Chief stated he has reached out to the dealer, who is attempting to contact the seller to check for any updates. No contact yet.

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

Assistant Chief David Uhler:

Foundation Support with Grants and Passthrough to SBRFA: The South Beach Firefighter Community Support Foundation has assisted in securing 3 grants this summer from Agwest Financial Capital ($75,000), Gesa Credit Union and Gesa Community Foundation ($12,011.53), and the Ocean Spray Community Fund ($3,000) and will be coordinating purchases that will be donated to SBRFA for agreed-upon equipment and services. These donations will need to be accepted by this Board in order to be used by SBRFA.
33rd Annual Cranberry Harvest Festival, Firefly Parade and Bog Jog: This weekend is the Cranberry Festival in Grayland. Grayland Hall will host activities, the South Beach Firefighter Community Support Foundation will be serving funnel cakes at Station 3-4 and coordinating the Firefly Parade at 7pm on Saturday, October 10, 2026. The Bog Jog is happening on Sunday, October 11th, 2026, at 8am.
Fire Prevention Family Night at Ocosta Schools: Thursday, October 15th we will be in the Ocosta Schools supporting their Family Night with food served to all attendees. We will have a special appearance from

Sparky that day along with a chance for children and families to learn and interact with our department to promote safety in our community. This year's topic is Charge into Fire Safety dealing with safe use of electronics especially those with high-output batteries.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **Approval of Commissioner Timecards:** David McLellan made a motion to approve the commissioner timecards as presented for payment. Motion seconded by Tom Bearden. Motion carried.
b. **Bond Update:** Discussed under Chief's Report.
c. **PPG#6210 Procurement Policy (Purchasing) Chief Brown.** The policy had been distributed to the Board at the September meeting. Chief noted that this was prepared by our attorney which Includes the laws of the State of WA that must be followed. Tom Bearden made a motion to approve PPG#6210 as written. Motion seconded by David McLellan. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **2027 Budget Presentation:** The 2027 Budget Presentation was distributed to the Board Members. Calculations and projections have been completed and the final 2027 SBRFA Budget total is $3,965,800.00. Noted was that the 2027 budget is color coded for easily referencing the numerous categories. David McLellan made a motion to approve the 2027 total budget at $3,965,800.00. Motion seconded by Tom Bearden. Motion carried.
b. **Long Range Plan:** The consensus was that a special board meeting should be held on Monday October 12, 2026-10:00am at 708 Englewood Lane S, Westport, WA 98595 for the discussion and possible approval of the SBRFA Long Range Plan to include personnel Issues for discussion. Action may or may not be taken.

NEXT MEETING:

November 12, 2026-4:30pm Board of Volunteer Firefighters Board
November 12, 2026-5:00pm South Beach Governance Board Meeting

ADJOURN:

Tom Bearden made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40pm. Motion seconded by Sam Schlegel. Motion carried.