

## KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #2

Ellensburg, Washington

**Minutes of:** Commissioners' Board Meeting, Special Session  
**Meeting date:** May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Meeting time:** 12:00pm  
**Meeting place:** The Ranch Restaurant located at 301 Vantage Highway, Vantage, WA 98950

The special meeting was publicized according to the requirements of Chapter 188, Laws of 2012. Each Board member was sent a written notice via e-mail; the Daily Record was notified via an e-mail, a notice was posted on KVFR's website, and the notice of special meeting was posted in the front window at 400 E. Mountain View on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Ross Ogan, Pat Clerf, Scott Ciraulo (Virtually) and Jerry Pettit. Commissioner O'Neill had an excused absence.

**Others in Attendance:** The KCFPD4 Board of Commissioners and ASM Sydney McBride and no members of the public.

**1. Call to Order:** Commissioner Ogan called the meeting to Order at 12:13pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Clerf made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Pettit seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

### **3. Executive Session:**

#### **3.1 Mutual Aid/Response Guidelines/Interlocal Agreement between KCFPD4 and KCFPD2:**

Commissioner Ogan thanked KCFPD4's board of commissioners for taking the time to sit down to talk mutual aid and response guidelines. Chief Goldsmith shared that this conversation started after the Hazmat call of the semi-trailer and it that overall response cost KVFR \$4,400. KVFR has seen an 11.5% increase in call volume and everything comes back to a cost for our agency to provide service. Chief Goldsmith said we browned out a station last week, first time ever for KVFR. We have lots of people off on extended sick leave. KVFR has worked to get robust mutual aid for KVFR and other Grant County agencies. Chief shared that Chief Lynn now has a mutual aid agreement with Royal Slope and Chief Lynn is committed, if KVFR have fires to assist with mutual aid. They are not interested in a the same response for Vantage Fire based on history with Vantage.

Commissioner Ogan announced that the board would be taking a recess at 12:22 to grab food for the meeting. The Regular meeting Resumed at 12:29pm.

Commissioner Stockdale asked Chief William Rose about their relationship with Grant county 10 or 8. They felt like it was mutual on Vantage part because if they see smoke they would go over and help. But they do have limited staffing.

Chief Goldsmith stated that what scares him about Vantage right now is the number of people who are sitting in traffic, because of the bridge project and there is 2.5 years left in the project. Discussion occurred that WSDOT has had meetings but has not done anything to mitigate the hazards for wildland fire based on recommendations from the fire service agencies. Commissioner Stockdale felt it is frustrating because it leaves Vantage fire with millions in cost for fire suppression not to mention the life safety aspect. Chief Goldsmith shared that moving forward we need to find a way for our two agencies to work together. Commissioner Clerf spoke up that it is simple that we don't have a ton of people right now, an entire shift is out on leave. Commissioner Pettit then stated that we do have more volunteer than Vantage but less than you would think. We had a fire the other night and we only had 4 volunteer show up.

Discussion from Chief Goldsmith occurred that the state is changing the way they fight wildland fire by hitting them fast hard and early. Keeping the initial response big to keep the incident from getting big. Chief Goldsmith then stated that the problem with Vantage fire is that you don't have the resources needed to draw from and can surround and drown the fires. You have major infrastructure going in and the county isn't requiring the hotel to be sprinklered anymore. KVFR is a bigger agency with more capacity. We could bring you up in your WSRB rating a contract with us would bring you from a 7 to a 5 and you would get the same rating as us.

Commissioner Stockdale said the big thing is that we would want to guarantee our community that a response is coming. Chief Rose said it sucks because we don't have the volunteers to staff for calls. They understand that KVFR is coming for all EMS calls. Commissioner Stockdale asked if KVFR would be willing to do billing for structure fire response on a base fee. Chief Goldsmith said that agreements can be written several different ways, per call basis, ect. Commissioner Pettit, spoke up that bill for service, would bankrupt you quickly and its not something we would want to do. The other option Vantage fire can do is, potentially get a levy lid lift. Nobody likes to pay taxes but if you look at the offset of that it beneficial to your community. Commissioner Ogan asked if Vantage has a contract with Auvil Fruit. Commissioner Stockdale responded, kinda, they opted out in the 1970's and started having the discussion again 5/6 years ago but it hasn't been paid it would be about \$10,000 a year of funding.

Chief Rose stated that he like the idea of a contract that guarantees that someone is coming when volunteers are not around. Commissioner Stockdale stated that this is not a wildland issue, we are concerned about structure fires. DNR or YTC is responsible for most of the wildland that doesn't threaten vantage. Chief Goldsmith state that his disagrees and it is everything for Vantage that is a concern from vehicle fires to hazmat response. Commissioner Stockdale said that the town of Vantage has only been threatened by a wildland fire when someone set the fire during a backburn operation. Over the years it hasn't been threatened otherwise.

Commissioner Pettit asked that in your discussions with Auvil fruit, has there been discussion to provide volunteers. Chief Rose, no there wasn't. Chief Goldsmith stated that we can get wildland assistance for Vantage because now house bill 1498 covers that the aircraft and fire districts, need to have a FLRA agreement to get the resources. You have to have trained personnel to utilize that. YTC will no longer be able to use aircraft off of YTC.

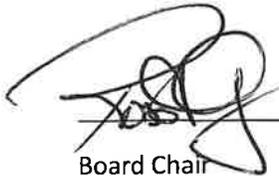
Chief Rose then stated that he doesn't want to be IC for these incidents because we don't have the manpower to fight the fires. Commissioner Clerf stated that we are in a pickle, just like you are. We closed one of our manned stations for the first time because we don't have staffing. Chief Goldsmith stated that when the world is on fire volunteers will come out. Commissioner Clerf stated that he is not looking to sign an agreement right now, but maybe once our staffing looks better.

Commissioner Stockdale stated that any help would be greatly appreciated. Chief Goldsmith stated that he has a good relationship with Auvil fruit can help figure out the payment/contract for KCFD4. Commissioner Pettit asked what Vantages biggest need is right now, Chief Rose responded a structure fire response. He would like to have an agreement for a response. Commissioner Stockdale stated that annexation is not a point of interest but maybe that would change over time. Right now, our revenue is about \$41,384.00.

Chief Goldsmith stated that he could do a cost benefit analysis and with 35 calls or so a year, it would be about \$25,000 for us to cover the district. Commissioner Ogan asked if we are still on an auto aid agreement during the fire season? Chief Goldsmith said no, Commissioner Stockdale stated that he believes all Vantage needs help with is a structure fire response. There was discuss that Vantage needs to do a better job with communicating with KVFR if they want a response or not. Chief Goldsmith stated that his biggest fear by not automatically responding to all incident types for Vantage is the consequences for people who may get stuck in wildland fire. Commissioner Ogan stated that he is worried and wants to help his neighbors. Commissioner Pettit stated that it sounds like structure fires are the incidents they are asking for resources on and to see what an agreement would look like. Chief Goldsmith would like to see an auto aid agreement for all types of incidents. Chief Rose asked about WSRB and insurance credits, auto aid agreements vs mutual aid agreements. Chief Goldsmith stated that they only look at auto aid not mutual aid.

Commissioner Stockdale would like to propose \$20,000 a year for structure fires. The commissioners all thanked each other for the conversation and talked about having a draft agreement to see what it could look like for responses.

**4. Adjournment** Commissioner Pettit made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Clerf seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:50pm hours.

  
Board Chair

  
District Secretary

