

King County Fire Protection District No. 27

Minutes

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of King County Fire Protection District No. 27 was held on July 6, 2018 at Station No. 271 located at 4301-334th PL SE in Fall City, Washington.

Chairperson Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present:

Chairperson Hansen
Commissioner Hollis
Commissioner Meredith
Chief Connor
Secretary Wall

In Attendance:

Captain Larson	Chief Clark
Lt. LeDoux	FF Baker
FF Jessen	Dave Hart
FF Noble	Brandon Bothwell
FF Fleming	

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Lt. Ledoux addressed the Board and stated that the 4th of July went off without any fireworks related incidents. The duty crew went out and visited several neighborhoods and handed out red fire hats to the kids. He also thanked the Board for continuing the open dialogue, and as a representative of the LOCAL he encouraged moving forward with the D10 merger option. He further stated that the Board should make a decision if it wants to keep within the timeline of a February or April election date, then you would have eight months to educate the community.

Brandon Bothwell addressed the Board and stated that he has invested a lot of personal time on the Committee. The information we brought to the Board shows that there will be a savings to the community and their fire services will increase. With the current staffing the firefighters are at risk, the community is at risk. The timing is right; in one or two years the positions available at D10 may not be there. The Board should also consider that Chief Connor will be retiring in a few years. The Board needs to give the voters a chance to decide.

Dave Hart addressed the Board and asked how many volunteers and recruits were currently active. Chief Connor stated that we currently have 10 volunteers and 5 recruits. Discussion on the e-shift rotation ensued. Dave also asked about firefighter training and if there are continuing issues with makeup training. He asked about the amount of reserve funds the District currently has. Chief Connor stated that there is \$559,000 in the operational reserves and \$127,000 in the apparatus reserve fund plus additional money that the Board has earmarked to transfer this year. Dave further stated that there is a lot of confusion out there and the Board needs to educate the citizens; I would slow it down a bit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

District 10 Consolidation - Timeline and Process for a Fire District Merger

Chief Connor provided the documents outlining the timeline and process for a fire district merger that had been given to the Board at the June 29th meeting. Chief Connor stated that after consulting with Attorney Snure, if the merger is not completed by August 1, 2019, then the Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) would not take effect in 2020, and the effective date of the merger would need to be after the districts levy their taxes in early December.

Chief Connor reviewed the following initial steps in the merger timeline: Fire District 27 merger petition resolution, Fire District 10 resolution to accept, reject or modify the merger petition, SEPA environmental review preparation, legal description of the district, and a resolution to the Boundary Review Board (BRB). These steps would need to be completed, and filing with the BRB would need to occur by August 24th for a February election date, if jurisdiction is not invoked with the BRB.

Chief Connor asked if the Board had any conditions they would like to include in the merger petition resolution to District 10. Commissioner Meredith asked if the petition could be amended. Chief Connor replied that it would be difficult to amend because the resolution will be submitted to the BRB and it's also part of the County Councils approval process; your alternative option would be to rescind the petition.

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Commissioner Meredith stated that the benefits are substantial enough, that we should give the community the option to vote on it. There are also citizens who want lower taxes and they may be upset if we pass on it. Commissioner Meredith stated that he would like to stay with the February/April election timeline. He also stated that the Board can formally decide on July 24th after the Town Hall meeting.

Chief Connor asked if the Board would like some conditions added to the merger petition resolution; he suggested that there should be language that will prevent the excess levy from being collected if the merger occurs prior to August 1st. Commissioner Hollis suggested paying the GO Bonds off with the District's reserve funds if the merger goes through. Chief Connor reported that the Bond payments will be done in 2021, and it's approximately \$164,000 - \$167,000 that's due each year.

After further discussion, Chairperson Hansen made a Motion to have Chief Connor move forward with collecting the necessary information for the merger petition resolution, the SEPA filing document, legal descriptions, the Boundary Review Board filing resolution and any other items necessary. Commissioner Meredith provided a second. The Board voted; Chairperson Hansen and Commissioner Meredith in favor, Commissioner Hollis opposed.

Motion Carried

Chief Connor discussed the timeline of invoking jurisdiction with the Boundary Review Board and who can invoke jurisdiction. If 45 days elapses from the BRB filing date, without jurisdiction being invoked, then the action from the BRB will be automatically approved, however if jurisdiction is invoked an additional 120 days after the request to invoke jurisdiction is filed, will be added. Chief Connor stated that the District can start the 120 day period by invoking jurisdiction up front. Further discussion on the timeline ensued; Chief Connor stated that the February election date is possible however if jurisdiction is invoked and it goes to 165 days then the District would be looking at an April election date.

Commissioner Meredith stated that for now, he would prefer not to invoke the jurisdiction; if we can make the timeline, get the information out to the public and not continue to drag this out further, we should target the February date.

Chief Connor recommended that the Board provide some public hearings in the future. Chief Connor also stated that the February and April elections do not require a voters' pamphlet, therefore a pro/con committee is not required. Discussion ensued on what the costs might be. Chief Connor stated that it depends if any other jurisdictions will be sharing in those cost. He stated that he will inquire with the elections office for some estimates.

Chief Connor stated that there will be some costs associated with the merger procedures and suggested that the Board approve those expenditures.

On the Motion of Commissioner Meredith and a second provided by Chairperson Hansen, the Board authorized Chief Connor to expend funds necessary to move forward with the outlined merger plan.
Motion Carried.

Chief Connor also reported that work continues on the aid car replacement. With the upgrades of a power cot the costs are estimated at \$225,000. Chairperson Hansen inquired if we need to proceed with the purchase if the merger were to occur.

Snoqualmie Cooperative Operation Exploration

Chief Connor reported that the meeting with Snoqualmie is scheduled for Monday, July 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Hansen stated that at the last Commissioner meeting there was discussion between her and Commissioner Hollis about removing the fourth sub-option of the Snoqualmie option and a decision was not made. After further discussion, Commissioner Meredith stated that he was ok with leaving it as an option for now.

Fire District Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, July 24, 2018 (6:00 – 8:00 pm) / a special meeting notice will also be posted for this date. Secretary Evans will follow up with Nora and Dale about the presentation for the town hall meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Hiring Additional Career Firefighter

Commissioner Meredith discussed moving forward on hiring an additional firefighter, potentially one from our volunteer ranks.

Commissioner Meredith moved to evaluate and start the process of hiring an additional career firefighter. Chairperson Hansen provided a second.

Motion Carried.

OTHER:

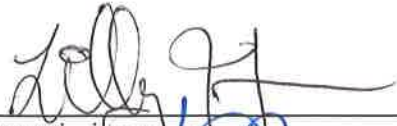
Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Hansen at 10:40 a.m.


Attest:

Melinda Wall
Board Secretary

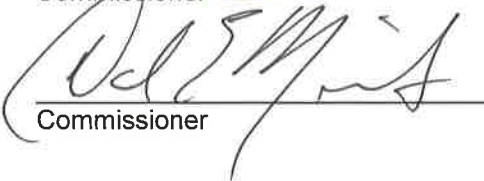
Melinda Wall



Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner