

King County Fire Protection District No. 27

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of King County Fire Protection District No. 27 was held on January 8, 2019 at Station No. 271 located at 4301-334th PL SE in Fall City, Washington.

Chairperson Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson Hansen
Commissioner Hollis
Commissioner Meredith
Chief Connor
Secretary Wall

In Attendance:

see attached list

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

WFCA Service Award

Commissioner Meredith was presented with his WFCA ten year service award.

Public Comment Period:

George Robertson commented that he was proud of the Fall City Fire Department. He commented on the growth of neighboring cities and stated that there are 3,821 registered voters in District 27, and 15,236 voters in District 10. He commented on the District's financial stability and that he would like to see the District retain its local control.

Jay Blucher commented on his family's history with the department; he was a third-generation volunteer and later a career firefighter in Fall City. He commented on the impact that taxes and fire services can have on his business. He commented on the equipment, fire station, and well trained firefighters that the residents have paid for. He discussed the firefighter staffing levels, response scenarios, and costly reserve apparatus. He also commented on the benefits, training, additional resources, and opportunities that the firefighters would have in a larger organization and that the volunteers could still be involved. He noted that change is inevitable and the citizens who live here should determine that change for the department's future.

Kimbra Baker commented that she is in support of the proposition because it's a public safety issue and would provide the additional resources that the firefighters need. She commented that almost 80% of the taxpayers in Fall City would see a tax savings, while giving the residents the service they deserve. She commented on the regional standard of three-firefighter staffing and the District's minimum standard of two and shared her concerns regarding staffing.

Robert Angrisano presented a letter to the Board signed by over 50 citizens in the community. He stated that the citizens want to thank the Board for pulling the ballot measure from the February election in order to re-evaluate the information. He commented on issues with the Committee and the evaluation process and recommended an independent review of all of the options. He commented on the community support for the firefighters and stated that their concerns need to be addressed, he petitioned the Board to hire the twelfth firefighter.

Firefighter Joe Springer commented that the Board has access to the facts, three person minimum staffing is what we need, not two career and two volunteers. He conveyed his appreciation for the volunteers but stated it's not the same as having three career firefighters. He further commented about the every day operational side of the department and being safe, and providing adequate service to the community. He conveyed that the citizens should have the opportunity to say yes or no for increasing their level of service while saving money for the taxpayers.

Firefighter Shaun Baker commented on the minutes of December 14th meeting. He also commented on the proposition which would provide the community something that we can't offer now, additional public safety, and at a savings.

Dave Hart asked about the Chair position of the Board and when it was voted on last. Secretary Wall replied January of 2018, and it is voted on every two years.

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Nancy Moore stated that her name is on the letter that Robert presented tonight. She commented about the uncertainties that are addressed in the letter, which she felt need to be explored further.

Ryan Singletary, a resident of Fall City and career firefighter in Kent, commented about the minimum staffing standards. He supported the hiring of a 12th firefighter and emphasized the difference of having two firefighters versus three. He discussed the statutes of the two-in two-out rule. He also commented on other low acuity, but high intensity events such as CPR events which requires several jobs that need to be done in the first minute. He commented on the declining volunteer trends. He further commented on the opportunity to be safer now while also saving money.

Commissioner Hollis stated that there are a lot of emotions on both sides of this issue and he had stated numerous times before, that it does need to go to a vote, however he felt that the process was rushed. He stated that he appreciated withdrawing this off the ballot for February; to take the time to re-evaluate the information and make sure that we are all on the same page with the facts.

Jon Wiseman, former Union President commented about the polarization of the issue. He stated that it's about the fire department and providing the best service. As neighbors we need to be talking, and make sure we are working together better.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On the Motion of Commissioner Meredith and a second provided by Commissioner Hollis, the Board approved the minutes of the December 11, 2018 regular meeting. Motion Carried.

The Board deferred approval of the December 14, 2018 meeting minutes until the next meeting.

WARRANTS:

The Board reviewed the various vouchers drawn on the expense fund.

On a Motion of Commissioner Meredith and a second provided by Commissioner Hollis, the Board approved the following expenses: Voucher No. 22520-22558 totaling \$66,911.49; Payroll and EFT transactions totaling \$124,568.64. Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Board reviewed the budgets and financial statements. Secretary Wall stated that the 2018 budget will need to be updated with the December tax revenues once the reports are received from the County. She asked the Board if they would be taking action on the reserve transfer that was scheduled in December. Chief Connor stated that it is identified as \$80,000 in the 2018 budget and he recommended the transfer.

Commissioner Meredith made a Motion to make the reserve transfer of \$80,000 from the 2018 budget. A second was provided by Chairperson Hansen. Motion Carried.

STATION USER AGREEMENTS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Alarms

In December, the District responded to 25 BLS Aid calls, 10 ALS Aid calls, 9 Fire calls and 4 Service calls for a total of 48. The District requested mutual aid on 2 alarms of which we cancelled 1 time. The District provided mutual aid on 15 alarms of which we were cancelled 9 times. The fiscal year to date total at the end of the month was 168 alarms, compared to 196 in the 2018 fiscal year. The calendar year to date total at the end of the year was 761 alarms compared to 874 in 2017.

The 01:30 turnout time standard was achieved on 32 of 46 calls which is 69.6%. The 90% turnout time was 01:45. Alarm Charts for the month were provided for review. The 2018 alarm summary which documented the number of calls by month and by type was also provided to the Board.

Volunteer Firefighters / E Shift Program

The four 2018 recruits have completed EMT class. They will each be taking their EMT final written test later this month. Three new recruits for 2019 have begun their fire training in conjunction with EFR on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and all day on Saturday. One additional recruit has completed fire training and will be taking the EMT written test later this week.

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NORCOM

Chief Connor reported that he had become ill and had missed the NORCOM Governing Board last month. This month's meeting is scheduled for this coming Friday morning.

Shared Staffing

Shared Staffing orientation training of personnel for 2018 is still not complete. 2019 training discussion among Fire Chief's will occur soon.

Apparatus Re-Numbering

Chief Connor reported that the apparatus at our station had been re-numbered using the 152 and 252 number series. The re-numbering occurred on January 1, 2019 and caused some minor malfunctions with program which are used for reporting. At this time the station is not being re-numbered and will continue to be known as Station 271.

BC Quarters

Chief Connor reported that the alarm system programming and addition of signal devices was scheduled to occur later this week. The escape window may also be installed later this week. There is some trim and other miscellaneous work that will need to be completed prior to move in of the BC.

HRA VEBA

Chief Connor stated that HRA VEBA had been set up. An MOU was sent to the carrier along with a plan update for the group. The HRA VEBA initial funding had been completed. Discovery Benefits will continue to bill the District during the three month close out period.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fire District 10 Consolidation

It was noted in the Chief's report that the District had notified EFR and District 10 that the February 12th ballot measure had been withdrawn in order for the District to provide additional information to its citizens.

2019 Ballot Measure

Based on the actions of the Commissioners at their Friday, December 14, 2018 special meeting, a resolution was created and sent to King County Elections withdrawing the District's ballot measure from the February 12, 2019 election.

Chief Clark briefed the Board on the updated D10/D27 Merger Summary document, which included the most recent 2019 financial data from both of the district's budgets. Chief Clark also provided an updated Fire Benefit Charge Comparison Document; which listed all of the tax parcels in Fire District 27 and compares the District's current levy structure with a fire benefit charge model. The document will be posted on the website and citizens were encouraged to look up their properties.

Commissioner Meredith stated that the information that had been discussed over the past year was based on 2018 data and that these numbers being discussed tonight are theoretical estimates based on the current data available.

The D10/D27 Merger Summary document illustrated the following:

- A savings of \$284,767 for Fire District 27
- The effective tax rate Fall City residents pay now is \$1.58
- The effective tax rate (inc. Fire Benefit Chg.) Fire District 10 residents pay now is \$1.43
- Effective D10/D27 merged tax rate (inc. Fire Benefit Chg.) is projected at \$1.41
- 77.72% of residential properties in Fall City would see a tax decrease; (average savings \$136) 15.13% would see a tax increase; (average increase \$66) and 7.14% with no change.
- 21 commercial properties would see a tax decrease ranging from \$1 - \$1,525 and 41 commercial properties would see a tax increase ranging from less than \$100 - \$1,992.
- Estimated transport revenue of \$121,741 was included in the merged model; currently District 27 does not charge transport fees.

Chief Clark also discussed the one-time costs associated with the merger which could be broken down into the following three sections:

Deferred merger costs; represents expenditures that District 27 would incur regardless of the merger.

- New Aid Unit \$238,946
- Final Engine Payment (June 2020) \$59,000

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Engine would be paid off and the remaining aid car funds would be put into Eastside Fire & Rescue's Equipment Replacement Fund for a replacement vehicle that would be purchased January 1, 2021.

Direct merger costs; includes liability reserve associated with employee retirement and separation, D27 employee's vacation coverage, additional bunker gear, uniforms, computers, I.T., station rekey and cardlock system

- Total estimated cost \$197,181

Merger cost avoidance (capital expenditures); due to the current fleet size and inventory of EFR, there is no need for D27 to upgrade its SCBA's, replace Tender 271 or maintain a reserve engine.

- SCBA \$75,000
- Tender \$500,000
- Engine \$600,000

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the \$121,741 transport revenue that was included in the revenues of District 10 and not in District 27. Arguments were made by Terri Divers that the revenues should be subtracted from the potential savings on the District 10 merger document which would bring the savings down to \$163,026.

Commissioner Meredith stated that these are the inputs to a comparison that can be made. The difference in the estimated expense for the station on the two scenarios is shown as \$284,767 on the expense side. Further discussion on transport policies ensued.

A brief discussion ensued on future revenue and expense indicators for District 10 and EFR.

Commissioner Meredith asked about the options of being a partner in EFR or the possibility of contracting with EFR. Chief Clark briefed the Board on the partnership costs and stated that the contracting model would involve working with the EFR Board to determine those costs.

Hiring Additional Firefighter

Chief Connor reported that Volunteer Firefighter Dane Brookshear had been hired by the District effective on 1/1/2019. Training has been and will continue to occur. FF Brookshear has been added to the schedule and will begin to have an immediate impact. FF Brookshear had already completed a full time training academy about one year ago.

King County ILA – Fire Protection Services

Chief Connor stated that Brian Snure has been working with King County on our behalf. He is now recommending that the District sign the latest agreement with the County. The agreement is expected in the next few weeks.

No Reports on the following:

Snoqualmie Cooperative Operation Exploration
Fire Safety Occupancy Inspections
SRT Program / River Rescue Equipment
Dedicated Daytime Training Officer / 12/24 Hour Daytime Floater Position

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Election

Commissioner Meredith moved to amend the District's policy/resolution to make annual considerations for the Chairperson position. Chairperson Hansen provided a second. Motion Carried.

Chief Connor stated that a resolution would be drafted and presented at the next meeting for adoption.

Changing the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Date

Commissioner Meredith discussed changing the regular meeting to the second Monday of the month. There was favorable consensus by the Board for this request. Chief Connor stated that the District may need to provide notice to the State Register and a resolution would need to be drafted. The Board agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

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A special meeting was scheduled for January 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

OTHER:

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Hansen at 8:49 p.m.


Attest:

Melinda Wall
District Secretary


Melinda Wall



Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner



King County Fire Protection District No. 27
Board of Commissioner's Meeting
Attendee List - January 8, 2019

Chief Jeff Clark - EFR
Chief Jon Parkinson - EFR
DC Greg Tryon - EFR
DC Richard Burke - EFR
Secretary Jamie Formisano - EFR
Cpt Ken Larson
Lt Patrick LeDoux
FF Aaron Hansen
FF Jordan Jessen
FF Josh Yancey
FF Dane Brookshear
FF Genessa Rose
FF Joe Springer
FF Parker Dumas
FF Marcus Noble
FF Shaun Baker
Kimbra Baker
George Robertson
Millard Jones
Lauri Hauglie
Kevin Hauglie
Terri Divers
Gene Stevens
Dave Hart
Robert Angrisano
Jay Blucher
Ryan Singletary
Jon Wiseman
Debbie Sanchez
Jane Krein
Nancy Moore
Mary Butler
Joey White

* not a complete list