

# 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 June 3, 2019 at Station No. 271 located at 4301-334th PL SE in Fall City, Washington.

Chairman Meredith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Present:**

Chairman Daniel Meredith  
Commissioner Lilly Hansen  
Commissioner Eric Hollis  
Chief Chris Connor  
Secretary Melinda Wall

### **In Attendance:**

see attached list

### **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

#### **Public Comment Period:**

Nancy Moore thanked the Board for having the special meeting and having these open discussions.

Robert Angrisano commented that he has yet to hear an acknowledgment from the Commissioners about the vote and the will of the people. He encouraged the Board to publicly state their commitment to the firefighters, to provide the necessary tools and training for them. He discussed the need for each firefighter to have a second set of bunker gear and he provided a copy of the Healthy In-Healthy Out; Best Practices for Reducing Firefighter Risk of Exposures to Carcinogens and a copy of the City of Snoqualmie's Personal Decontamination after IDLH Exposure policy. He conveyed that the Commissioners would be liable if they have knowledge that the firefighters are exposed to an unhealthy environment and that the proper steps had not been taken to keep them protected.

Dave Hart commented that the Board put this out to the people and they have decided that they want their own fire department. He strongly encouraged the Board to hire the 12<sup>th</sup> firefighter.

Rick Reynolds thanked the Board for putting this out to a vote and stated that it could have resolved many issues. He commented that there are still good options available. He commented about the Fire Chief retiring and that it will take several people to do what he does now. He encouraged the Board to consider this when they look at their options.

Terri Divers commented about retaining local control and conveyed that local control was not an option with the vote.

George Robertson commented on a previous proposal to form a committee that would include citizens to help facilitate the Fire Chief's succession plan. He also commented on the desire to have more communication from the Board.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Financial Projections**

Chief Connor reviewed the following RCW tax structures for fire districts and reported on the various taxing options available to the District; levy lid lift, excess levy and fire benefit charge:

##### **Regular Tax Levy(s) – RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140, RCW 52.16.160**

Each statute provides for an ad valorem tax levy of up to fifty cents. The levies collected under RCW's 52.16.140 and 52.16.160 are limited in that they can only be collected if they will not cause the combined levies to exceed the constitutional or statutory limitations. (Constitutional Limit = 1% AV, Statutory Limit = \$5.90 for the County and all Junior Taxing Districts) District can collect current levy amount + 1%, + value of new construction in ensuing year. Chief Connor discussed levy rate erosion and proration.

##### **Excess Tax Levy – RCW 84.52.130 (must receive 60% voter approval, plus 40% validation)**

A (Maintenance & Operation Support) levy can be no more than four years. A levy to support the construction, modernization, or remodeling of fire district facilities can be no more than six years. In either

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case the Election must be held in the year tax is levied, or in the case of a two year through four year (M&O) levy, or two year through six year (Facilities) levy, in the year that the tax is initially levied.

### **Fire Benefit Charge – RCW 52.18.010 (initial authorization must receive 60% voter approval, renewal with simple majority)**

Charge is limited to a maximum of not more than 60% of operating budget. Must be approved by voters no more than twelve months prior to the date on which the first charge is to be made. Charge is assessed on improvements to property. The regular levy must be reduced to a maximum of \$1.00/\$1,000 AV.

Chief Connor discussed the District's G.O. Bonds and stated that some departments finance their large apparatus purchases with bond financing.

**The District's 2018 Assessed Values which the 2019 levy rates are based on is \$1,313,244,287.**

### **The District's current tax revenues:**

- 2019 Regular Levy (1,584,399) \$1.20543
- 2019 Excess Levy (\$475,000) \$0.36401 (Excess Levy collection continues through 2020)
- 2019 GO Bond (\$161,750) \$0.06100 (GO Bond collection continues through 2021)

At the end of 2018 the District's Operational Reserve - \$559,000, Apparatus Reserve - \$305,000, Cash Balance - \$851,805

### **Chief Connor reviewed the following expenditure items:**

#### **Levy Period (2017 – 2020)**

- Aid Car Purchase \$225,000 – Includes MDC, Power Load, and Power Cot
- SCBA Purchase – \$160K-\$185K - End of Life 2021 (14 SCBA + 1 or 2 RIC Pack + 18 Spare Cylinders + Facepieces + Containment)
- MDC's - \$20K (2 units in service @ End of Life 2020)
- Equipment Replacement - (Heavy Rescue Tools \$38K, Nozzles \$5K / Hose \$5K, Rope \$3K / TRT Hardware \$5K, Chain Saw + K12 \$1.5K, Power Load for Reserve Aid Unit \$25K, New MDC's ?, Trailer Modifications \$2K)
- PPE 10 Year Life cycle – 2<sup>nd</sup> Set for Career EE's, (\$3,300 per set x 12=\$40K)
- Tires on 7 Year replacement schedule
- SKCFTC Training Consortium (Annual \$50K)
- New Employee – 12<sup>th</sup> FF in 2020 (First year at 75% = \$101,285)
- 2020 - 2022 Collective Bargaining Agreement

#### **Items to Consider for Next Levy Period (2021 – 2024)**

- Accrued Leave Balance (1,822 Hours Vacation) (\$38.29 x 1,822=\$69,765)
- NORCOM Expense – 2021 Elimination of \$280 K in E911 Revenue + Future Elimination of \$1.8 M)
- Vehicle Replacement Fund + Schedule (100% Funding)
- Equipment Replacement Fund + Schedule (Radio, PPE, Heavy Rescue Tools, SCBA, Rope / TRT Hardware, MDC's, Tires, SCBA Compressor)
- Facilities Equipment Replacement Fund + Schedule (Carpet, Flooring, HVAC, Paint)
- New Employee's – FT Training Officer, Admin or DC

Chief Connor reviewed the current Vehicle Replacement Schedule which had a 3% annual inflationary factor. Annually \$80,000 has been transferred into the reserve accounts. Beginning in 2021 and through 2029 the schedule illustrates \$120,000 funding annually into the reserve account. And beginning 2030 that funding amount increases to \$160,000 annually.

The finance model included the Aid Car replacement but did not include many of the other capital equipment expenditure items outlined above. The finance model illustrated that the future budgets for each of the years showed higher expenses than the expected revenues. The regular levy rate continues to decline over the next five years from \$1.20543 to an estimated \$1.0625 in the year 2024. The G.O. Bond which is currently \$0.06 ends in 2021. The M&O levy assumption for 2021-2024 was increased to \$650,000 resulting in an estimated levy rate of \$0.4479 in 2021 and declining to \$0.4067 by 2024.

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The following assumptions were loaded and reviewed in the finance model:

### Revenues:

1% increase + New Construction Values: 2020 & 2021 = \$8M, then for 2022, 2023, 2024 = \$4M  
Assessed Value increases for 2020 = 5%, 2021 = 4%, and 2022, 2023, 2024 = 3%  
M&O Levy: 2020- \$475,000, 2021-2024 - \$650,000 each year.

Chief Connor discussed the King County Economic Forecast with the Board which illustrated some decreases in new construction from the previous year in the unincorporated areas. The assessed values in the unincorporated areas of the County illustrated modest increases over the next two years. Chief Connor stated that the County model doesn't always predict what is happening in our area.

Terri Divers asked about the County's forecasted numbers and commented on the high increase in water availability certificates that she has processed in Fall City. Further discussion ensued about the different areas of new construction, what the amount of revenue could be expected and if any of the areas would be annexed in the future; (e.g. Boeing property development).

### Expenses:

2020 Overall increase of 7.50%, Salaries 10.7% (12<sup>th</sup> FF added)  
2021 Overall increase of 1.57%, Salaries 4.3%,  
2022 Overall increase of 1.94%, Salaries 3%,  
2023 Overall increase of 2.52%, Salaries 3%  
2024 Overall increase of 2.60%, Salaries 3%  
Expenses to be eliminated, Engine Payment of \$59,579 in June 2020

Chairman Meredith stated that he would like to see the list of expenditures included in the Finance Model that Chief Connor has outlined tonight along with the extra funds for the vehicle replacement.

Terri Divers commented about the deficits that continue to show on the budgets and that the District usually has some padding in the budget, she stated that historically the District usually ends the year with a surplus. Chairman Meredith replied that we don't have a contingency line item but there is some padding in the budget for those unexpected expenses.

Discussion ensued regarding the accounting of capital expenditures which are typically expensed out of the reserve accounts, and why the current engine payments were coming out of the expense fund. Chief Connor also commented that the vehicle replacement fund has not been fully funded in the past.

Chief Connor briefly discussed three-person minimum career staffing utilizing the current FTE's and overtime. Commissioner Hollis inquired what Snoqualmie was doing with their training officer in light of the SKCFTC training consortium. Chief Connor briefed the Board on this and discussed the cost savings of joining the consortium versus a full time training officer.

A special meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. to review the financial projections model with the added line items as discussed.

Rick Reynolds commented about contrasting the costs of the stand-alone option with the costs of contracting with another agency. He discussed the challenges ahead for the District and commented on the many benefits of working with another agency.

Chairman Meredith replied that this had been brought up before but we need to first get a better understanding of where we are at now.

Nancy Moore commented about the decision the community voted for.

### Fall City Day

Chief Connor briefed the Board on what the expectation will be for this year. He also stated that there has been no interest to host the BBQ this year.

### OTHER:

### Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Meredith at 9:37 p.m.

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Attest:

Melinda Wall  
District Secretary

Melinda Wall

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Chairman

[Signature]

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Commissioner

[Signature]

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Commissioner



**King County Fire Protection District No. 27**  
**Board of Commissioner's Meeting**

Attendee List – June 3, 2019

EFR BC Dave McDaniels  
Cpt. Ken Larson  
FF Jordan Jessen  
FF Shaun Baker  
FF Dane Brookshear  
FF Scott Fleming  
FF Jonathan Krell  
FF Josh Yancey  
FF Aaron Hansen  
Robert Angrisano  
Dave Hart  
Jay Bluher  
Brandon Bothwell  
Terri Divers  
Noel Eby  
Jane Krein  
Nancy Moore  
Rick Reynolds  
George Robertson  
Dave Schiesser  
Marty Wheeler