

"FINAL"

King County Fire Protection District 40

Regular Commissioners' Meeting

August 13, 2009

4:30 p.m.

Commissioner
RONNIE BEHNKE

Commissioner
MIKE WARFEL

Commissioner
CHARLOTTE RYAN

Commissioner
RUSS PRICE

Commissioner
CRAIG VIOLANTE

Deputy Chief
BOB VAN HORNE

Board Secretary
DEANNA GRATZER

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Behnke called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners for King County Fire Protection District 40 to order at 4:30 p.m. Commissioners present for the Call to Order: Behnke, Ryan, Price, Warfel and Violante. Also attending were Secretary Gratzner, Consultant Paul Witt, Attorney Kinnon Williams, Chief I. David Daniels, Deputy Chief Bob Van Horne, Lieutenant Craig Soucy, Communications Specialist Lisa Garvich, Doug Gibbs, Becky Gibbs, Nick Bujanovich, Beverly Giberson, Linda Sartnurak, Cory Cappelletti, J. Paul Blake and numerous other citizens.

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no citizen comments for agenda items.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence received consisted of a letter from Mayor Denis Law in response to the commissioner's request for a reduction in the 2009 contract cost due to salary and staffing reductions.

A copy of the letter is on file with the minutes.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Presented by Deputy Chief Bob Van Horne

Safety / Support Services:

Deputy Chief Van Horne is coordinating a meeting with the Capital Facilities/Equipment Workgroup and Apparatus Committee to provide an update and review specifications of the proposed new aid unit. Commissioners Warfel and Price should have information to present to the Board at the August 27, 2009 meeting.

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Community Risk Reduction:

The Fire District 40 Inspection Activity Report for the month of July was presented for review. A total of 4 initial inspections and 10 re-inspections were conducted. All inspections conducted were in non-permitted occupancies. A total of 9 violations were noted.

A copy of the report is on file with the minutes.

Response Operations:

On August 6, 2009, Engine-17 responded to a 50' X 50' brush fire at under the power lines. Engine 17 had been in the same area for smaller brush fires so a King County Fire Investigator was dispatched. Two small boys admitted to setting the fire.

Fire District 40 Response Time – July 2009:

Chief Daniels presented the Fire District 40 response times for July of 2009. The report includes response measurements, factors affecting response times and the plan of action to improve response times.

A copy of the Response Time report is on file with the minutes.

RFA Exploratory Meeting:

Chief Daniels reported on the RFA Exploratory meeting held on August 6, 2009. Jurisdictions represented at the meeting included the cities of Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila; and fire districts 40, 25, 20 and 11. Consultant Paul Witt was in attendance on behalf of District 40. The jurisdictions represent a total of approximately 300 personnel, 17 fire stations and \$40M in combined budget.

Topics were discussed in general terms and included each jurisdiction's reason for exploring the RFA concept; the pros (efficiencies, funding, future) and the cons (political complexities) of a Regional Fire Authority.

Representatives from each agency are tasked with collecting facts (i.e. stations, staffing, coverage areas based on 5 minute response times, etc.). A meeting will be scheduled at the end of the year, and the representatives will make a determination on whether to propose the RFA concept to the elected officials of the jurisdictions.

Renton City Council – Meet and Greet event:

Chief Daniels thanked the Board members who were in attendance at the Renton City Council's "Meet & Greet" event that was held on Monday, August 10, 2009. It was the first event where elected officials from all 3 jurisdictions were in attendance.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Donation:

The workgroup continues to look at options for the \$8,092.00 donation made to the District. A recommendation will be made at a future meeting.

RFQ – Architectural and Engineering Design Services:

Attorney Kinnon Williams prepared a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Architectural and Engineering Design Services. The Capital Facilities / Equipment Workgroup has reviewed and approved the RFQ.

The RFQ will be run in the Daily Journal of Commerce for two consecutive weeks.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – July 30, 2009
- b. Expense Fund Vouchers No. 08011 through 08019-Amount \$9,461.63.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Warfel and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Price to approve the consent calendar as presented. The **MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

NEW BUSINESS:

King County Ordinance 2009-0416-Fairwood Incorporation Prop. 1:

Commissioner Behnke stated the Board would take citizen comments on whether the District should hold a public hearing on the Fairwood Incorporation Proposition 1.

Nick Bujanovich requested the Board hold a public hearing so that citizens could get information on both sides pertaining to this proposition. He stated that the decision to incorporate or annex is a life saving decision and a public hearing would be meaningful and beneficial to the citizens the Board represents.

Beverly Giberson stated it is only fair to give the citizens an opportunity to speak.

Numerous citizens opposed to a public hearing stated they felt the Board should remain neutral.

Lieutenant Craig Soucy said that a meeting is good, but he doesn't think the Board should host such a meeting. He stated there are a lot of issues and doesn't know if the Board would want to be in the middle.

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Doug Gibbs encouraged the Board to remain neutral but to answer citizen's questions in regards to impacts at the regular board meetings.

Cory Cappelletti inquired of the possibility of the Board facilitating a public hearing on all issues relating to incorporation/annexation.

Attorney Kinnon Williams explained that the Fire District has a limited mission; therefore it would only be appropriate for the District to hold a public hearing relating to fire protection services.

Nick Bujanovich said he is surprised the Board made the decision to remain neutral prior to the Boundary Review Board decision; and would the Board have made that decision if they knew the facts.

Commissioner Price stated the Board had hard feelings about getting "beat up" when they supported the last incorporation effort.

Commissioner Ryan said that not making a decision in this matter is a philosophy of the Board.

Commissioner Violante stated that the Board did not make a formal decision to remain neutral. A decision could not have been made prior to a ballot issue.

Attorney Kinnon Williams stated that if the Board chooses to take a position, a public hearing would be required.

Commissioner Warfel stated that he came on board after the contract was in place. He feels that fire service is just a small piece of incorporation/annexation.

Commissioner Behnke stated that if citizens are interested in hosting a public meeting, they should find a venue and a representative from the District will attend.

Commissioner Violante stated that a public hearing should be held to review the Districts financials and determine whether the District can continue to afford a higher level of service that is currently provided. (i.e., do citizens like the level of service, do they understand the cost and do they want to continue at the same level.)

City of Renton Commissioner Survey:

Renton Fire & Emergency Services has developed a satisfaction survey that will be presented quarterly. The goal of the voluntary survey is to get regular feedback regarding services provided by the Department.

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WORKGROUP REPORTS:

Capital Facilities / Equipment:

Commissioner Warfel reported that Peter Renner, City of Renton Facilities Director, had a crew inspect the roof at Station 17. A report should be complete prior to the next commissioner meeting.

Commissioners Warfel and Price continue to work with non-profits to dispose of the remaining surplus equipment and supplies.

Community Relations:

Commissioner Warfel met with Communications Director Preeti Sridhar and Communications Specialist Lisa Garvich to review the resources available.

Commissioner Warfel stated that he has compiled a list of the Homeowners Associations and their meeting dates. The workgroup would like representation at those meetings.

Chief Daniels will arrange for fire department representation at HOA meetings.

Finance:

Commissioner Violante and Consultant Paul Witt will meet to review the Districts various revenue sources and the impact the 2010 Assessed Valuation (AV) reductions will have on those sources. The Benefit Service Charge can't exceed 60% of the Budget.

Policy:

Commissioners Behnke presented the Board with a revised Organizational Plan, Goal Statements, 2009-2010 Organizational Goals and Mission and Objectives.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Violante and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Price to approve the Organizational Plan, Goal Statements, 2009-2010 Organizational Goals and Mission and Objectives as revised. The **MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

Commissioner Ryan presented the Board with a list of Section 2000 Policies and Procedures to be rescinded.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Violante and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Price to rescind the Section 2000 Policies and Procedures as presented. The **MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

Commissioner Ryan presented the Board with revised Section 2000 Policies and Procedures (with the exception of Policy 2750).

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A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Violante and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Warfel to approve the revised Section 2000 Policies and Procedures as presented. The **MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

Commissioner Behnke presented the Board with revised Section 7000 Policies and Procedures (with the exception of Procedure 7311P).

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ryan and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Behnke to approve the revised Section 7000 Policies and Procedures as presented. The **MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

Commissioner Behnke presented the Board with a list of Section 7000 Policies and Procedures to be rescinded.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Price and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ryan to rescind the Section 7000 Policies and Procedures as presented. The **MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

Intergovernmental Relations:

Commissioner Violante reported that the Workgroup is scheduled to meet with the City of Renton on September 10, 2009.

Risk Management:

There was nothing new to report at this time.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Linda Sartnurak inquired of the districts options to raise and lower taxes.

Commissioner Violante provided an overview of the districts primary revenue sources (tax levy (\$1.00/\$1,000.00 AV) and the Benefit Service Charge), the mechanism for setting the BSC, and the potential impacts of the anticipated decrease in 2010 AV's. The Benefit Service Charge can't exceed 60% of the Budget.

Nick Bujanovich stated that he is disappointed in the Boards decision to remain neutral. Proposition 1 is a referendum to choose between Renton and the City of Fairwood. As stated on their website, the City will reduce staffing on the engine to 3 and there will not be an aid unit at Station 17. Local control will be taken away from the citizens. The Board was elected to look out for citizens on fire and life safety, by not taking a position, it says you don't care.

Doug Gibbs thanked the Board for not taking a position on the City of Fairwood. He feels the Board can provide information in newsletters or the BSC letter.

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J. Paul Blake inquired of Consultant Paul Witt's scope of work, contract duration, compensation and the expected outcome of the contract.

Attorney Kinnon Williams stated that a Public Records Request should be made to obtain a copy of the contract.

ONCE AROUND THE TABLE:

Commissioner Ryan expressed her desire to attend the Washington Fire Commissioners Annual Conference scheduled for October 22-24, 2009 in Spokane. Commissioners Behnke and Price also wish to attend.

There were no other Board comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into a five minute Executive Session at 5:55 p.m. to discuss Potential Litigation under guidelines of RCW 42.30.110(i). The Executive Session ended at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on **Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 4:30 P.M.**



Ronnie Behnke, Chair



Charlotte Ryan, Commissioner




Craig Violante, Commissioner



Russ Price, Commissioner



Mike Warfel, Commissioner



Deanna Gratzner, District Secretary

- Attachment Meeting Agenda
City of Renton/Mayor Law Letter
Chief's Report
Response Times - July 2009
Inspection Activity Report
RFQ - Architectural and Engineering Design Services
Policy Admendments/Rescinds