

# 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 February 7, 2012 at Station No. 271 located at 4301 334th PL SE in Fall City, Washington.

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

### Present:

Chairperson Williams  
Commissioner Hollis  
Commissioner Meredith via phone  
Chief Connor  
Secretary Evans

### In Attendance:

Captain Larson  
Lt. LeDoux  
FF Noble  
FF Krache  
FF Turcotte  
FF Bresler  
FF Yancey

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### **Future Options – Revenue and Expenses**

Chief Connor provided a presentation with emphasis on the following key points:

- WA State February 2012 Forecast – Single home prices continue to decline; 6.3% in the Seattle area.
- King County September 2011 Forecast – 2012 Assessed Values projected to decline by 4.43%; the basis includes future annexations in the County's area which most likely would not be reflected in our area.
- Historical data and projections through 2015 of the District's Assessed Value (AV), levy rates, revenue, expenses and total assets were reviewed. A worst case scenario of the AV projections, illustrated a decline of 2.5% in 2013. While a better case scenario illustrated the District's AV leveling off (0% decrease/increase) in 2013, and expectations that the District's AV would begin to rise in 2014.

Chief Connor discussed some of the peaks and valleys in the District's historical data that was attributed to the following:

- Station Remodel; completed September 2004
- 2004 Levy lid lift up to \$1.40 (2005 tax collection)
- 2010 COS annexation
- 2011 KC Flood District Agreement
- Economy down turn

Chief Connor stated that some of the District's levy codes were subject to pro-rationing this year which could have resulted in a loss of .06 to our levy rate had we not moved a portion outside of the \$5.90 limit.

The discussion shifted to the District's future apparatus needs and what options were available for these capital expenditures. Chief Connor stated that the District most likely will need to consider financing the next engine purchase with a bond levy or possibly form an alliance with other agencies to share vehicles. Commissioner Hollis inquired about the timeline of purchasing the next engine. Chief Connor replied that NFPA recommends a replacement schedule of ten or fifteen years on a front up engine. The District' front up engine is a 2004.

Chief Connor reviewed with the Board a list of the options that had been presented in the past and thought it would be a good starting point for discussion.

#### Merger -

When two fire districts combine; you need to have a willing partner and the merging district goes away. There can be a loss of identity for the community and this can be a politically charged issue.

#### Regional Fire Authority -

The District and six other agencies participated most recently in RFA discussion over the last two years. The agencies involved were pretty diverse and when the financial model was presented it illustrated a significant cost increase to the Cities with no increase in services. It would have been difficult for the elected officials in the Cities to sell this to their constituents. An RFA with Cities and Fire Districts can be difficult due to the differences in how they operate.

#### Contract for Services -

Chief Connor provided an example of how D34 in Redmond contracts for services with the Redmond Fire Department.

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### ILA Partnership -

In 2008 the District hired a consultant to review the District's long term options and his recommendation was to pursue the ILA with Eastside Fire and Rescue. The District formally requested a feasibility study to join the EFR Partnership; the study was completed and financially the annual cost for EFR's service model was about \$450,000 above what the District was currently paying. Members in the ILA were not willing to adjust or modify their service model to accommodate D27 and our request was ultimately vetoed by one of the ILA Partners.

### Fire Benefit Charge -

With the fire benefit charge the District can levy up to \$1.00 in property tax. The total fire benefit charge may not exceed 60% of the District's annual operating budget. The charge may be assessed on personal property and improvements to real property, it cannot be charged against unimproved real property. It requires 60% voter approval. A public hearing is required each year to review and establish the benefit charge for the following year. There are overhead costs to administer the charge.

Chief Connor stated that in 2006 the District did an extensive study of the fire benefit charge and reviewed it again in 2008. The result illustrated a greater financial impact to the homes in the low to moderate value range; due to the area demographics of having a small commercial base and a large amount of unimproved property. Chief Connor further stated that we could take another look at the fire benefit charge.

FF Turcotte asked if the District wants to find a participating agency to merge or partner with what does D27 bring to the table to be and asset to them? Several comments regarding location were mentioned. Chairperson Williams conveyed that Fall City is the hole in the donut that would be very beneficial to fill with the regionalization model. She further commented that the District's E-shift is very solid and an asset which could be duplicated in the ILA.

### Fee for Service -

Discussion ensued on the statute that allows the District to recover costs on motor vehicle accidents.

1) Intoxicated drivers who are convicted of a DUI.

2) Citizens who do not live in the District; we could bill them for services and if they have insurance the costs would be passed on to their insurance.

Commissioner Hollis asked if the District could bill for MVA's outside of our district on a mutual aid call. Chief Connor replied that he didn't think we could except for the DUI MVA's.

Transport fees; Chief Connor stated as long as the District is not competing with private business we could bill for transport. Chief Connor stated that last year we did approximately 125 transports when the ambulance company was not available. Chairperson Williams requested to see more information on these transports and where they were taken to. Commissioner Hollis stated that this could potentially bring in \$20,000 or more.

### Volunteer Options -

Chief Connor stated that our E-shift program has been pretty strong and other than utilizing Volunteers during the daytime in the peak summer months he's not sure how to expand it more.

### Other -

Grant funding for training and equipment was discussed. The Safer grant was also discussed and Chief Connor stated that typically this is applied for when you want to bring in new people. Fire Building permit revenue and increasing the CPR/First Aid class fee were also discussed.

### EMS Levy -

There is a .50 cent levy set aside for EMS services and currently King County is levying .30 cents. Whatever the County does not levy could be levied by fire and / or EMS agencies; assuming the voters would approve it. Chief Connor stated that he does not know of any agencies in King County that have gone after the remaining amount but in Snohomish County many agencies have an EMS levy. The next King County EMS election is in 2013.

Chief Connor stated that as the District's expense and revenue budget continues to be upside down our reserves will become depleted. He asked the Board to consider what numbers that they were comfortable with in the reserve accounts; and what they would like to see loaded in the projections.

The discussion turned to what other agencies were pursuing. Lt. LeDoux stated that Duvall had sent a letter to Woodinville to talk about consolidation. Chairperson Williams also stated that D27 could merge into D10 and this probably could be done with the current ILA agreement.

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The ILA contract ends in 2014 and speculations of what changes may occur with the ILA are difficult to construe at this time.

Commissioner Hollis stated that we need to keep this item on the agenda and schedule a special meeting to continue the discussion.

**OTHER:**

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Williams at 9:08 p.m.

Attest:

Melinda Evans  
District Secretary

Melinda Evans

Marie Williams  
Commissioner  
[Signature]  
Commissioner

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Commissioner