

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 April 30, 2013 at Station No. 271 located at 4301 334th PL SE in Fall City, Washington.

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

Present:

Chairman Hollis
Commissioner Meredith via phone
Commissioner Hansen
Chief Connor
Secretary Evans

In Attendance:

Lt. LeDoux
FF Fleming
FF Krache
FF Baker
FF Brookshear

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Tax Levy / Ballot Measure

Chief Connor discussed the election outcome of the fire district's who were participating in the April 23 special election. He shared with the Board that there are 3,568 registered voters in our fire district and 2,971 voted in the last general election. The 40% validation needed is 1,188 and 60% of the required validation number is a minimum of 713 yes votes.

Chief Connor reported on the April 15th special meeting that was held in Duvall with Chief Burke. Fire District 45's is collecting the full amount of the excess levy and they reduced their regular levy to have some banked capacity for the future. Further discussion on banked levy capacity occurred. Chief Connor shared other suggestions from the meeting; having a contingency plan, educating the public with town hall meetings, informational flyers, and fact sheets.

Chief Connor reviewed for Commissioner Hansen that the District over the years had kept an adequate reserve, but the combination of the economic recession and the City of Sammamish annexation, has affected the District's finances. He stated that the District has also engaged in a partnership consideration study with Eastside Fire and Rescue and entered into a Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee, both of which were a process of several years and were not viable. Chief Connor also discussed the Fire Benefit Charge which the District had previously studied as another finance option.

The discussion turned to the excess levy, if the District does a maintenance and operations levy it can be issued for a two to four year period. The Board would need to determine the tax levy amount needed. Commissioner Meredith proposed looking at a three year levy and also including funds for equipment replacement. After discussion on the primary and general election dates it was determined that putting the ballot measure out in November would provide the needed preparation time. An election timeline with filing dates was reviewed with the Board.

Chief Connor reviewed King County's economic forecast with the Board. The Countywide forecast shows an increase of 3.8% in assessed valuations (AV) for 2014 and continued growth between 3.2% - 4.7% annually over the next nine years. However looking at the unincorporated areas they predict slower growth and a decrease of -.10% in AV for 2014, 0% in 2015, then between 2.68% - 4.23% annually until 2022. Annexations continue to affect the unincorporated areas and Chief Connor conveyed that our AV numbers may be slightly better because our district will not be affected by the annexations.

Data charts of the District's AV, revenue and expenses for 2004-2013 were reviewed with the Board.

Secretary Evans presented a four year revenue and expense forecast for the District. The projections did not include funding for capital equipment replacement and an additional \$40,947 was cut from the current 2013 budget amount. The excess levy amount needed to cover the projected revenue deficits was .56 cents. She stated that this amount is a moving target depending on what AV and inflationary factors that are entered. Commissioner Meredith recommended a conservative approach with the AV projections, maybe a decrease for next year, because we have nothing to base a positive number on yet. Discussion followed and Commissioner Meredith stated that he would not want to reduce the expenses any lower, if we take more out we're not showing a true projection of what the District's need is.

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Chief Connor also conveyed the importance of including funds for apparatus replacement. He discussed the LOCAL financing program that the District used to purchase the 2004 engine. Chief Connor presented a draft document to the Board which included facts on the District's revenue shortfall, historical AV, annexations, service operations and potential service reductions. Chief Connor asked for Board direction in determining if the current budget needs to be amended.

Commissioner Hansen recommended putting a committee together to determine what amount is needed for the ballot measure. She suggested having a Volunteer, Career Firefighter and Commissioner included on the committee. Getting other ideas and perspectives from our Volunteer and Labor group would be beneficial. Commissioner Meredith and Chairman Hollis agreed and nominated Commissioner Hansen as the Chair of the committee. Commissioner Hansen was willing to chair the committee and would meet with Chief Connor to discuss further.

Discussion ensued on Fire District 45 and Snoqualmie's current levy rates. Chief Connor also provided clarification on the validation number and the number of yes votes that would be needed. 1,188 is the validation requirement number, but if more people turn out to vote, the yes votes needed (60%) would go up from the minimum of 713.

Secretary Evans requested Board approval for Commissioner compensation for the committee meetings.

On a Motion by Chairman Hollis and a second by Commissioner Meredith the Board approved Commissioner compensation for the finance committee meetings.
Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER:


Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Hollis at 8:51 p.m.

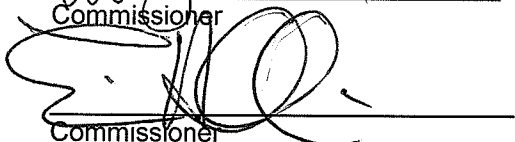
Attest:

Melinda Evans
Board Secretary

Melinda Evans



Commissioner



Commissioner

Commissioner

