

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 December 6, 2018 at Station No. 271 located at 4301-334th PL SE in Fall City, Washington.

Chairperson Hansen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson Hansen
Commissioner Hollis
Commissioner Meredith
Chief Connor
Secretary Wall

In Attendance:

Lt. LeDoux
FF Yancey
FF Baker
DC Parkinson (EFR)
Terri Divers
Nancy Moore

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Public Comment Period

Terri Divers stated as a resident of Fall City I request that the Board consider not staffing the Fall City station with an EFR Battalion Chief.

Lt. LeDoux thanked the Board for the 1-year extension to the collective bargaining agreement. He also stated that having the resource of a Battalion Chief working in our station is good, it will provide command oversight, and provide additional resources. Outside of a merger he hoped the Board would still consider this option.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chief Connor stated that the Letter of Agreement with the Local has been completed and with the LOA we agreed to change to an HRA VEBA account with another plan administrator. This addressed the Local however it does not address the Administrative personnel. He suggested that both HRA plans could be kept as an option if desired. The Board conveyed that they thought that all of the employees of the District would be under the new HRA plan. This Board will take this up for action at the next meeting.

Fire District 10 Consolidation

Ballot Measure- Resolution 2018-6 Providing for the Submission of Merger Approval into Fire District 10

Commissioner Hollis stated "that the Fire District 27 was formed in 1946, it has been here for nearly 73 years, and I would like to see that continue. There are benefits to a merger and there are benefits to standing alone, the levy is now down to \$1.20 and standing alone is a possibility, we have been doing a good job, and it was only a year and half ago that this was inconceivable, and if you look at mutual aid, we receive much less than we provide. Labor gains the most from this merger and that is what has driven this process. We have alot to lose. Commissioner positions, yes, we will have a few, but EFR will run this Fire District, the City of Sammamish and the City of Issaquah will run this District. Look at why Fall City formed the Park District, because of what King County was doing. And our Committee was predisposed to do this merger. The savings to the modest homes in downtown Fall City is small if any at all. The business district takes the biggest hit of all, and this is another burden we will put on them, we are not like Snoqualmie or Issaquah with a large business district. With that being said, I will not be supporting the merger vote."

Commissioner Meredith stated "I will respectfully disagree that labor gains the most, everyone in the community or those that travel through will benefit, training will improve, the career paths will be broader, and a small one station district cannot match the benefits of the larger district. When the economy turns down, as it does, the burden will be lessened with more people in the collective district. The citizens of our community deserve a chance to vote on this, I should not have my one voice impede their vote. I also give much credit for what Chief Connor has done for this District over the many years."

Chairperson Hansen stated that she agreed with Commissioner Meredith's statement and that the public should have a vote.

Commissioner Meredith Moved to Adopt Resolution 2018-6; Providing for the Submission of Merger Approval. Chairperson Hansen provided a second. The Board voted, Chairperson Hansen and Commissioner Meredith in favor; Commissioner Hollis opposed. Motion carried.

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“Pro / Con” Committee Appointments

On the Motion of Commissioner Meredith and a second provided by Commissioner Hollis the Board appointed Jay Bluher, Brandon Bothwell and Gary Smith to the committee “For” the proposition, and Kevin Hauglie, Dave Hart and Nora Hightower to the committee “Against” the proposition.
Motion Carried.

Proposition One Informational Flyer

An informational mailer will be prepared and after discussion a tri-fold mailer was preferred. Secretary Wall stated that the mailing date would be the third or fourth week in January.

D27 and EFR Agreement for Battalion Chief Services

An updated agreement was provided to the Board for review. Chief Connor reported that no permits are required for the improvements. He expected that the work could be completed in early or mid January. Commissioner Hollis stated that he had sent some comments out why the Board might want to wait until after the vote. He further stated that he wasn't opposed to the idea but thought it would be a political issue.

Commissioner Meredith conveyed that he has a hard time understanding why, from an objective point of view, that improvement to services, with this type of agreement would be negative. Commissioner Hollis stated that the BC would be responding to EFR calls and not always to D27 calls, depending on the nature of the call. Chairperson Hansen stated that having a BC in the Valley is a good resource. Commissioner Hollis reiterated that I generally support the idea but this will be a contentious issue for the voters.

Chairperson Hansen Moved to approve the Agreement for Battalion Chief Services with EFR, a second was provided by Commissioner Meredith. The Board voted, Chairperson Hansen and Commissioner Meredith in favor; Commissioner Hollis opposed. Motion carried.

Chief Connor reviewed with the Board the transitional cost estimates of the merger that was provided by EFR. Chief Connor discussed EFR's biennial budget that was recently adopted and what the expected inflationary increases were for the partners.

Chief Connor also discussed the Options Comparison spreadsheet that he had provided to the Board. He has had some request to update the numbers with 2019 data. He briefed the Board on getting an update on the Fire Benefit Charge database. If the District makes the request, we should expect to pay the consultant a fee for the service.

Executive Session

The Board convened into a 10 minute Executive Session at 1:45 p.m. to discuss Chief Connor's Performance Evaluation in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). After five minutes Chief Connor joined the Board in the Executive Session. An additional 15 minutes was needed to continue the discussion.

The Board convened back into the Special Meeting at 2:10 p.m.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Meredith, and a second was provided by Commissioner Hollis to increase Chief Connor's compensation by 4.1% percent and increase his monthly deferred compensation by \$50, effective retroactively to July 1, 2018. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:


OTHER:

Adjournment:


With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Hansen at 2:20 p.m.
Attest:

Melinda Wall
District Secretary






Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner