



**REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE  
October 30, 2014**

**Present:** Jay Covington, Chief Admin Officer  
Marcy Palmer, Renton City Council  
Ed Prince (Chair), Renton City Council  
Mark Chubb, Chief KCFD #20  
Iwen Wang, FIT Administrator  
Nancy Carlson, HR\_RM  
Lt. Will Aho, Local 864  
Brian Beckley, Renton Reporter

Kerry Abercrombie, KCFD #25  
Myron Meikle, KCFD #25  
Ray Barilleaux, KCFD #25  
Mark Peterson, Fire Chief  
Chad Michael, Deputy Fire Chief  
Julie Bray, KCFD #25 District Liaison  
Brian Snure, Atty Snure Law

1. Chief Peterson introduced Brian Snure from Snure Law. Mr. Snure gave a brief history of the area Regional Fire Authorities. He was contacted by Ms. Wang for assistance. He gave a review of the proposed draft RFA Plan (attached):
  - We would be creating a separate entity by contracting between the City of Renton and King County Fire District #25.
  - By statute, an RFA can be formed on July 1<sup>st</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>; this dictates when taxes can be collected.
  - The RFA Plan will be submitted to the voters of the County and City as a single ballot measure that must be approved by a 60% vote. If the Plan fails, Renton Fire will continue to provide the service level prior to the vote.
  - If the Plan fails, the Fire District will remain a separate entity and continue to exist, unless dissolved by the Board.
  - If the Plan fails, it can always be put forth to the voters again.
  - If the Plan passes, the contract with Fire District #40 would be covered by the RFA, not the City. Fire Service should not be affected.
  - Any annexations would automatically transfer to the RFA. If the entire District is annexed into the RFA, the District would be dissolved.
  - District #20 would need to be annexed into the RFA upon approval of their voters.
  - The City of Renton can continue to annex from both District #25 & #40. The RFA is responsible for coverage even though the City is doing the annexing.
  - Councilmember Prince asked about the even number of members on the Governance Board. In the event of a tie, what would the procedure be? Commissioner Meikle suggested a non-voting member. Mr. Snure informed them that the issue should be addressed by the Planning Committee.
  - The City of Renton has the responsibility for investigating fires, inspecting businesses and Public Education. If the RFA would like to take on those responsibilities, all fees generated would go to the RFA.
  - The District's Reserve Fund would be absorbed by the RFA. There would still be a Board of Commissioners that would meet if an issue arose.
  - Commissioner Barilleaux asked about the long-term care insurance the District has for its three LEOFF I retirees. Mr. Snure informed him that if the policy can't be transferred, that would stay with the District. The Planning Committee would have to build the language for the insurance into the Plan.

- The division of assets was discussed by Mr. Snure. Each City/District does it differently – the Planning Committee would have to work the issue through with the City.
2. Ms. Wang gave a presentation on the Service Benefit Charge (attached):
    - There are two ways the RFA can be funded. One would be to keep the \$1.50/Assessed Valuation; the other would be to lower that to \$1.00/Assessed Valuation plus a Service Benefit Charge (SBC).
    - The RFA and the SBC would be on the same ballot. Both would have to pass before the RFA could be formed.
    - The SBC can be up to 60% of the operating budget; most RFAs keep it around 40%
    - Since Boeing maintains their own fire department, they are exempt from the SBC.
  3. Chief Peterson brought up Fire District #20's participation in the Planning process:
    - Chief Chubb informed the Committee that 20% of District #20 calls are to non-taxed properties.
    - After discussion, the Committee endorsed District #20's participation in the Planning Committee. Chief Chubb was comfortable with a non-voting role. Commissioner Meikle made a motion to allow District #20 into the discussions as a non-voting member. Seconded by Councilperson Palmer. Motion passed unanimously.
    - Commissioner Meikle voiced his concern over District #20's bargaining unit. Lt. Aho remarked that Renton's Local 864 is open to discussions with their bargaining unit.
  4. Deputy Chief Michael discussed the Citizen Advisory Committee:
    - Their main objective is to bring information back to the Planning Committee on any concerns or questions the citizens might have.
    - A Mission Statement and Objectives will be developed to assist the Advisory Committee.
    - Councilmember Palmer would like to see more names on the prospective member list. The majority of the people on the list are ones that are always tapped for service.
    - Chief Peterson requested that any further names be sent to him right away so he can start contacting them.
    - Commissioner Abercrombie suggested Richard Keltner – he will get the contact information to Chief Peterson.
  5. The next meeting of the Planning Committee is tentatively set for November 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at Fire Station #13.

Recorded by:  
Julie Bray, District Liaison