



REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE November 12, 2015

Present: Ed Prince (Chair), Renton City Council
Armondo Pavone, Renton City Council
Marcie Palmer, Renton City Council
Myron Meikle, KCFD #25
Kerry Abercrombie, KCFD #25
Jay Covington, Chief Admin Officer
Mark Peterson, Fire Chief

Iwen Wang, FIT Administrator
Nancy Carlson, HR&RM Administrator
Steve Winter, Local 864
Will Aho, Local 864
Joe Clow, KCFD #20
Rhonda Heyden, Admin Secretary

1. **Call to Order:** Councilmember Prince called the committee meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion made by Commissioner Meikle to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting on October 29, 2015. Seconded by Councilmember Pavone. Motion carried.

3. **RFA Plan:**

Chief Peterson explained that Larry Warren (City Attorney) and Brian Snure (Attorney) have reviewed the plan and made their comments.

- The City Attorney added some clarifying language to include the City of Renton and Fire District 25.
- Section 7, Organizational Structure; Subsections C 2.7 (Fleet Maintenance) and C 2.8 (Facilities, IT, Communication): language added to include "The RFA shall give at least 180 days written notice of its intention to renew or terminate".
- Section 7, Organizational Structure; Subsection C 2.2 (Health Insurance): will need to be reworded to state "Health insurance will be provided by the RFA" since the RFA would have its own health plan by 7/1/16 and will not be covered by the City of Renton plan after this date.
- Appendix B includes more detail regarding the Fire Benefit Charge.
- The matrix (Exhibit 1) has been expanded to reflect what neighboring jurisdictions are also using.

Motion made by Councilmember Pavone to approve the RFA Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Abercrombie. Motion carried. Chief Peterson indicated that the next steps are to present the plan to the Committee of the Whole and ask Fire District #25 to adopt the plan.

4. **Staffing**
5. **Data**

Chief Peterson stated that he would cover agenda items "Staffing" and "Data" together. He explained that increased population and growth continue to affect response times and will have a direct impact on services. Currently, ninety percent of the time, the Fire & Emergency Services Department arrives on scene within 7 minutes 27 seconds. Ten percent of the time, it arrives

later than 7 minutes 27 seconds. The Chief explained that the department is currently “making due” but it is not as effective as it could be. It has adjusted first due response areas, redeployed resources, and joined the South King County Fire Training consortium. The current budget does not support consistent daily apparatus staffing and there is not sustainable service delivery based on today’s deployment model. At some point, Renton Fire & Emergency Services will not be able to meet the service demand. If the City’s anticipated shortfalls come through, there is an uncertainty of funding.

Chief Peterson explained the map handouts and indicated on the “Response Time” map that there should be more green (4:00 – 5:20) and yellow (5:21 – 7:29) response time areas rather than orange (7:30 – 9:00) and red (9:01 – 18:42) response time areas. He then presented maps that were developed by the GIS Department that showed drive times surrounding Station #12 and proposed Station #15. Commissioner Meikle added that call volume and congestion will continue to rise and the apparatus needing to get around in the congestion will be impacted. Councilmember Palmer added that response to motor vehicle accidents on surrounding freeways also has an impact with response times.

Chief Peterson asked the committee to add an additional 9 full time employees (FTEs) to staff Aid 13, which would cost an additional \$0.10 (\$2.04 total). Commissioner Meikle wondered whether the voters would be comfortable with going over \$2.00 and stated that the educational piece to show the voters what they would receive would be very important.

Commissioner Abercrombie asked if there were any other funding mechanisms besides the Fire Benefit Charge. Chief Peterson replied that EMS levy money is collected. Further, grants and bonds are an option, but they are not sustainable. Administrator Wang added that lid lifts are not an option if the tax rate is already maxed out. Commissioner Abercrombie thought that asking voters for the additional \$0.10 in 6 years could be an option to which Administrator Wang stated that the cost of the election should also be considered.

Councilmember Prince thought that voters might think they are being “nickel and dimed” if they are asked to approve \$0.10 in 6 years and recommended being transparent with the need now and asking for the money now, while educating and explaining to the voters as to why there is a need. Councilmembers Pavone and Palmer agreed.

Motion made by Councilmember Pavone to increase \$0.10 to \$2.04. Seconded by Commissioner Meikle. Motion carried.

6. ***Frequently Asked Questions:***

Chief Peterson asked for feedback with the Frequently Asked Questions document.

Councilmember Palmer pointed out an error under Question #4 “How would the RFA be funded?”, within the paragraph that reads “The FBC must be approved by the voters every three six years...” which should read “three to six years”.

Additional questions:

- Station #15: What happens if the RFA doesn’t pass? Will Station #15 still be built?
- How much will the RFA cost?
- How will services change?
- How will the new hotels in Renton affect congestion?
- How will potential annexations affect the RFA?

Chief Peterson indicated that the comments will be taken to the Communications Consultant.

7. Next Meeting:

Administrator Wang stated that the RFA plan will be adopted first and then a separate joint resolution will be adopted to place the item on the ballot for April, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Recorded by:
Rhonda Heyden, Administrative Secretary I