

**Regional Fire Authority
Planning Committee Meeting
Meeting #1 – February 5, 2015**

Chief Corn opened the meeting at 5:00 P.M. and attendance was taken. The following members were present:

Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee:

Steve Muller	Gary Bontrager
Jeff Siebert	Dave DeMarco
Jeff Vaughan	Marilyn Sheldon

Staff Members:

Greg Corn, Fire Chief	Gloria Hirashima, Chief Administrative Officer
Martin McFalls, Assistant Fire Chief	Sandy Langdon, Finance Director
Chelsie Reece, Finance Manager	

Co-Chairs were elected as follows:

1. Steve Muller
2. Dave DeMarco

Introduction and Identifying Overarching Goals

CAO Hirashima discussed the historical timeline of the regional fire authority creation as it relates to the City of Marysville and Fire District 12. She noted this planning committee is the furthest the agencies have moved into the process formation. She summarized the study which was performed to analyze the various structure options available including: (1) retain current contract, (2) create a city fire department, (3) regional fire authority, and (4) annexation. The outcome of the consultant study was a report which outlined the issues and consolidated main concerns with the current contractual relationship, as well as created a starting point for the various formation options. Both the consultant group and staff from both agencies (City and FD12) recommend that moving forward with an RFA is the best option. CAO Hirashima noted that one goal of the RFA would be to essentially maintain the primary integrity of the current relationship while putting more formality into existing space and service agreements such as fire prevention services, IT services, and facility use.

Chief Corn discussed the RFA benefits as it relates to Marysville Fire District, noting the structural benefit of creating a municipal corporation and the independent funding mechanisms which come along with such (i.e. levy capabilities, bonding capabilities, etc.).

EMS Levy

CAO Hirashima and Chief Corn discussed the matter of voter approval requirements and how they relate to the EMS levy as a component of the RFA ballot language and the preservation or dissolution of FD 12 as an entity. The options are as follows:

- Option 1: Dissolve FD 12, propose a new EMS levy within the ballot language of the RFA proposition and drop the City EMS Levy; this option requires a 60% voter approval to form the RFA and authorize the funding mechanisms.
- Option 2: Maintain the FD 12 EMS and the City EMS levy, transferring all EMS levy funds to the RFA. The RFA proposition would include only a funding mechanism for the regular levy and requires a 50% voter.

Consensus reached by all planning committee members that option 1 is preferable, dissolving FD 12 and proposing a new EMS levy within the RFA ballot language, requiring 60% voter approval.

Governance

Various governance options were discussed as follows:

1. 5 city appointed, 2 district elected;
2. 2 city appointed, 3 district elected;
3. 3 city appointed, 2 at large (election within entire RFA boundary);
4. 3 city appointed, 3 district elected with elections split into 3 separate election districts;
5. 3 city appointed, 1 at large, 1 district elected;
6. 4 city appointed, 1 district elected;

No consensus was reached. Preference towards having an odd or even number of voting members was discussed, as well as the option of having non-voting members as part of the governance.

Election Timelines

All members would like to see the RFA brought forward for the April 28th special election.

Next Steps and Meeting Dates

1. Commissioner DeMarco requested levy and funding information.
2. Councilmember Muller requested a checklist or summary of the RFA formation steps/process.
3. Commissioner Sheldon requested a visual of possible governance structures discussed.
4. All members requested to see samples of ballot language with the inclusion of an EMS levy.
5. Councilmember Vaughan would like a list of rules for how the future meetings shall be conducted.
6. Commissioner DeMarco requested that we have a formatted agenda containing discussion items, new business, and old business.

Two future meeting dates were scheduled: February 11th, 2015 from 5:00-6:30 PM and February 19th from 5:00-6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.