

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #12
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
August 24, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Bontrager called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

The following were in attendance:

Commissioners:

Gary Bontrager
Marilyn Sheldon
Pat Cook

Staff Members:

Martin McFalls, Fire Chief
Jeff Cole, DC
Tom Maloney, Fire Marshal
Paula DeSanctis, Board Secretary

Guests:

Grant Weed, District Attorney

Chairperson Bontrager welcomed everyone and asked if there were any questions or comments for discussion regarding the Arlington Resolution or the motion from the City of Marysville.

District Attorney Grant Weed stated that he prepared two draft resolutions rather than drafted letters for the Commissioner to sign. One to accept the City's offer to join the RFA formation and the other to decline. Weed stated that the language within the letters is not final, and he can make any changes that the Commissioners would like.

Weed shared that because there was no formal invitation from the City of Arlington Fire Department inviting District 12 to join the RFA formation, on page two, number three of the drafted acceptance resolution, Weed inserted the following language: Fire District No. 12 will request Arlington's written consent and acknowledgement that Fire District 12 will also be a participant.

Commissioner Bontrager asked if anyone has talked to Arlington regarding District 12 joining the RFA formation. Chief McFalls shared that Arlington's City Administrator Paul Ellis, Fire Chief Stedman, and Mayor Tolbert all would like to see District 12 participate.

Commissioner Sheldon asked if anyone knew the reason why the City of Marysville decided to talk with Arlington about forming an RFA. She stated that in previous RFA meetings the City Council was strongly opposed to expanding. Chief McFalls stated that Executives from Arlington approached Mayor Nehring and CAO Hirashima. Weed reported that the City of Marysville did their due diligence and considered all options just as District 12 did. Bontrager stated that he felt a change at the City's retreat in Bremerton. Bontrager also stated that the Union played a big part in bringing the City back to the table.

Weed stated that there are two conditions to consider if you choose to accept the City's invitation.

First, being the stipulation or condition of governance. The initial RFA committee will be made up of three elected officials from each agency. The condition is that the RFA governing board will be formed based on population or assessed value. Grant stated, what we don't know is how many officials will sit on the board and will they eventually be phased out to at large positions?

Cook stated that he accepts the condition to governance. He feels everything will even out over future elections. He stated he would rather have one person at the table than sit on the side lines with no say at the table.

Second, if District 12 accepts the invitation, District 12 agrees to extend the current ILA throughout the formation process. Weed stated he added language to state that District 12 agrees to extend the current ILA with the City of Marysville not to exceed one year – until December 31, 2017, under the same terms and conditions to cover the RFA formation period.

All Commissioners were in agreement to extend the current ILA with an added time line of one year.

Sheldon questioned the legal implications of accepting the invitation with the written condition of governance; questioning whether it can be predefined outside of an RFA Committee. Weed responded that the law for forming RFA governance is to first form a planning committee, which is what the City of Marysville has invited District 12 to join. The conditions imposed by the City does not violate the law. It is merely a forecast of what they are willing to accept in the future. The RFA planning committee will develop an RFA a plan. This plan will consist of governance board and designing a working agreement including financing and development of services. Once the plan is in place it is taken to the voters.

Chairperson Bontrager called for a motion, do we want to accept the City's invitation and sign the resolution prepared by District Attorney Weed.

Motion: To accept the City's invitation and approve the Resolution of Intent to Form a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Planning Committee
Made By: Cook
Seconded By: Sheldon
Action: PASSED unanimously

Weed suggested that the Commissioners be prepared entering into the RFA Planning Committee; look at copies of other RFA formations and start considering the most important issues that you would like to see in the RFA plan.

Chief McFalls stated that Weed also included in the acceptance resolution that District 12 supports the concept of a neutral consultant/facilitator who is skilled and experienced in the formation of RFA's in Washington state. McFalls shared that he feels strongly that having a facilitator will help us move through the negotiations smoothly. Also, McFalls would recommend a public affairs consultant be hired to educate the citizens about the upcoming vote needed for formation.

Adjourn:

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.



District Secretary



Date Approved