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MINUTES OF THE MARYSVILLE / ARLINGTON / FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #12  
REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Arlington City Council Chambers  
110 East Third Street  
January 26, 2017

**Marysville Councilmembers Present:** Jeff Vaughan, Jeff Seibert, Donna Wright

**Arlington Councilmembers Present:** Chris Raezer, Jesica Stickles, and Marilyn Oertle.

**FPD #12 Commissioners Present:** Pat Cook

**Marysville Council Members Absent:** Steve Mueller

**FPD #12 Commissioners Absent:** Gary Bontrager

**Also present** were City of Marysville staff members Mayor Jon Nehring, Gloria Hirashima, Sandy Langdon, and Jan Berg; City of Arlington staff members Mayor Barbara Tolbert, Paul Ellis, Kristin Garcia, Bruce Stedman, Kristin Banfield, Greg Koontz, and Dave Kraski; and Fire Protection District #12 staff members Martin McFalls, Tom Maloney, and Chelsie McInnis.

Arlington Mayor Barbara Tolbert called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm and called for self-introductions.

**Minutes of the November 1, 2016 meeting**

Councilmember Jeff Vaughan moved for the approval of the minutes of the November 1, 2016 meeting, including corrections provided by the City of Arlington. Councilmember Marilyn Oertle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Review of Arlington and Marysville Fire District Financial Models**

With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, City of Arlington Finance Director Kristin Garcia introduced the financial models to give the Planning Committee a baseline for the financial picture. Ms. Garcia covered the basic assumptions of the model and staffing. FPD #12 Finance Manager Chelsie McInnis discussed the current assets of the agencies. City of Marysville Finance Director Sandy Langdon discussed the financial projections based upon the outlined assumptions. Questions and discussion followed.

**Review of Joint Operations**

With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, City of Arlington Fire Chief Bruce Stedman and Marysville Fire District Chief Martin McFalls reviewed current operations, the potential for combining current services, and the potential future operation structure. Questions were asked and discussion was had throughout the presentation.

### **RFA RCW and Guidebook**

CAO Gloria Hirashima noted that the RCW governing the formation and operation of an RFA and the updated guidebook are now available on the Marysville website at <http://docs.marysvillewa.gov/htcomnet/Handlers/AnonymousDownload.ashx?folder=45a538b7>. There will also be a public facing website at [www.marysvillewa.gov/rfa](http://www.marysvillewa.gov/rfa).

### **Discussion of process for selecting facilitator**

CAO Gloria Hirashima and City Administrator Paul Ellis asked the Planning Committee what they are seeking in a facilitator to aid the RFA Planning Committee through the RFA formation process. Councilmember Seibert expressed he would like to start without a facilitator and then move toward utilizing the services of one later. He would like to see some experience with RFA formation, but does not want to have a facilitator that helps form RFAs as their entire business. Councilmember Oertle indicated that she was not interested in hiring a facilitator yet. Councilmember Stickles would like a facilitator with some RFA experience, but not yet. Similarly, Councilmember Vaughan requested a facilitator with some RFA experience, but believes that the Planning Committee has more discussion to complete prior to bringing one on. Commissioner Cook would like to see a facilitator with RFA experience. He is interested in expediting the process, but understands that the process will take time.

### **Discussion of February 23, 2017 meeting agenda (Marysville City Hall)**

Councilmember Stickles requested realistic five year projections from the two teams. She expressed concern of the revenue picture shown by the Finance work group, with a significant revenue dip without any increases to expenditures. She noted that realistic growth factors need to be built in and then see how far the money goes.

Councilmember Seibert would like to see a sustainable model to provide service and what that costs.

Mayor Tolbert asked the Planning Committee to consider what happens to the current City property tax rates if an RFA is formed. She also inquired about approaches to talk with our citizens about the merger, the costs, and staffing levels.

Councilmember Seibert asked if consolidation save us money and when. If it is not saving money, then it may not be worth it.

Councilmember Oertle stated that the Councilmembers and Commissioners need to be able to explain to the citizens that an RFA is better, and if it costs more, why it does.

Mayor Tolbert commented that we need to know what the taxpayer perception of the current service is and their reaction to what it may be after consolidation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

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Barbara Tolbert, Mayor

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Jon Nehring, Mayor