

Marysville / FPD 12

Regional Fire Authority Committee Meeting

Marysville City Council Chambers

February 7, 2018

5:00 pm

Attendees:

Marysville Mayor: Jon Nehring
Marysville City Council: Steve Muller, Jeff Vaughan, Kamille Norton
Marysville CAO: Gloria Hirashima
Marysville Finance Director: Sandy Langdon

Fire District 12 Commissioners: Tonya Christoffersen, Rick Ross, Pat Cook

Marysville Fire Chief: Martin McFalls

Welcome and Introduction

Mayor Nehring welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm and asked for introductions around the table.

Review of Agenda and Goals

Mayor Nehring gave a brief overview of tonight's agenda explaining the goal for tonight is to get a general idea of where everyone is on the topics of governance and future meeting facilitation. All committee members agreed to the agenda as presented.

Governance

Mayor Nehring directed everyone to the governance briefing hand out outlining five initial appointed board structure options. Mayor explained that these are some logical primary options of governance based on past conversations between the City and District 12. CAO Gloria Hirashima shared that she took a previous memo Consultant Karen Reed had done, updated it with Fire District 12 population, and recalculated the formulas and percentages to create the current options presented. There was previous opposition expressed to the at large options so they were removed. Hirashima stated they could be worked back in if requested.

Mayor asked everyone to state which presented options they favor and state if there are options that they feel can be eliminated.

Commissioner Christoffersen: Liked option 1, preferred option 3 with the added advisory position. Felt we could drop option 4. She feels governance is going to come down to building a relationship and trust.

Commissioner Ross: Liked option 1 and is open to option 3. Drop option 4 and 5.

Commissioner Cook: Liked option 1, leaning towards option 3, he feels the advisory position will be beneficial. Felt we could eliminate both option 4 and 5. Cook stated he understands the percentage of population and assessed value in each jurisdiction. We will no longer be City and District; we are working towards building a new board as one organization providing the best service to our citizens.

Council member Vaughan: Agrees with many of the comments offered. Liked option 1 okay with option 3.

Council member Norton: Okay with option 1 or 3.

Council member Muller: Proportionately he likes options 1, also likes option 3. Feels the advisory position in option 3 allows for future expansion.

Mayor Nehring stated we seem to have a consensus on either option 1 or 3. Mayor asked if the Committee was ready to take a vote on the governance options presented.

Commissioner Cook stated he has a couple of pressing issues to discuss before a vote is taken.

Cook shared with the RFA Committee the concerns of the District surrounding:

1) Current funding - District 12/Marysville Fire District has always saved money for purchases of large ticket items and hiring of personnel. Due to lower levy rates and contributions over the last couple of years, the District has been spending out of the reserves just for the day-to-day operations of the District. District 12 is coming to the RFA table debt free and would like to request a 2018 MFD funding increase of \$0.10 per thousand of assessed value in both FD12 and City of Marysville boundaries, effectively increasing the MFD ILA Regular Levy funding rate from \$1.09 to \$1.19. This would help fund the day-to-day operations allowing us to utilize the reserves on improving our services.

2) Aging facilities and apparatus – The District is in dire need of aid cars, we have no backups. We are having to call neighboring Districts to borrow apparatus. We are in need of an additional BLS unit in the North end. Station 65 is regularly being pulled for transports leaving that station empty for an average of two hours. We have several Stations that need to be remodeled or rebuilt. We will need to build a new facility to house Station 61.

3) Staffing issues (both full-time and part-time) – Our lack of personnel directly affects the District's ability to meet growing service demands relying heavily on mutual aid.

Cook shared the following facts and figures:

- One of every fifteen Marysville Fire/FD12 calls is ran by a different Fire Department.
- Last year we received mutual aid on 1,222 calls due to rising call volume and not enough personnel. The number of mutual aid calls given by Marysville were 588. We are not able to give back to or match the help we are being given.

Marysville's call numbers are matching the City of Everett. We are running our crews ragged and because of this, we are seeing an increase in sick numbers, number of injuries and we have people leaving. Station 62 is now our busiest station. On average Station 62 is staffed with only three crewmembers, five is the minimum number of personnel that should ever be at station 62.

Council member Muller stated he believes everyone agrees our process here is to increase service levels. Muller shared that part of our process has been contracting with an independent group for a cost analysis of the services provided. Muller shared that he is still an advocate of the Fire Benefit Charge (FBC). He feels we have the time to look at the analysis and still get the voters involved by fall. Muller believes the FBC is the true benefit of this whole thing providing stability in a down market and the best way to adequately fund this organization.

Cook stated we need to stabilize our funding sooner than later, well before the RFA.

Mayor Nehring stated Commissioner Cook made some valid points. Mayor shared that it is his hope to simplify the talks to get to an RFA. We cannot mix Council issues with RFA issues. Ultimately, District 12 will need to have a separate conversation with the full City Council on raising the fire levy. Mayor asked if we could arrive on an agreement on governance then move towards facilitating a structure of a plan for the RFA.

Cook shared his concern that if we agree to a governance structure that the pressing issues of stabilizing the funding and adequate staffing will be lost.

Ross and Christoffersen stated they share Cook's concerns and feel they need to be a top priority.

Muller shared that these concerns are part of the overall plan. Having these issues passed by the full Council will affect what we go to the voter for in the fall. After governance, we will analyze what numbers we will go to the voters with so we will not have to ask for more later.

Mayor stated we seem to have some consensus around one governance option and opened the floor for a motion.

Motion made by Commissioner Ross seconded by Commissioner Cook, to accept option 3 as the initial RFA governance model, (4 Marysville, 1 Fire District 12 and 1 Fire District 12 Advisory). **Motion** passed unanimously.

Future Meeting Facilitation

After much discussion, it was agreed that staff will continue to work with Consultant Karen Reed behind the scenes on the RFA plan. All work completed will be presented to the RFA Committee at each monthly meeting for direction and or approval.

Motion made by Muller seconded by Ross to allow staff of both jurisdictions to work with Consultant Karen Reed on the RFA plan. **Motion** passed unanimously.

Hirashima will contact Reed and work with her on hours and the scope of the entire project not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars and report the total budget to the Committee in March.

Motion made by Muller seconded by Ross to direct Hirashima to contact Karen Reed on the scope of the work to be completed, not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars. **Motion** passed unanimously.

Roundtable

Councilmember Muller – Stated he would like to pursue the analysis on the FBC. All assessments and property information within the Marysville Fire District will be pulled from the Snohomish County Assessors database. That information can be input into a spreadsheet showing the variety of scenarios an FBC offers such as the amount to be collected, funding formulas, structure categories, the weighting of structures, discounts and exemptions. This information will be useful in the operation of the RFA and for informing the voters of how the FBC will benefit them. Muller again stated that he feels the FBC is best way to fund the RFA. We as an RFA Board would have the ability to set the amount to be collected from the FBC annually ensuring stability. It was agreed that a proposal on Fire Benefit Charge analysis will be brought to the next RFA meeting.

Union Comments

Cody Brooke introduced himself as the new Local 3219 Union President. Brooke thanked the Committee for moving forward and settling on governance. Brooke shared that the District's call volume continues to rise and our staffing has not changed since 2011. Brooke stated he is looking forward to the progress that this Board is going to make.

Next Meeting

Mayor Nehring shared that all future meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2018, 5:00 pm at Marysville City Council Chambers.

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm.



Mayor Jon Nehring



Fire Chief Martin McFalls



Recording Secretary