

# Marysville / FPD 12 Regional Fire Authority Committee

## **Meeting**

*Marysville City Council Chambers*

*May 24, 2018*

*5:00 p.m.*

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Mayor Nehring called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Marysville City Council:	Steve Muller, Kamille Norton, Jeff Vaughan
Marysville CAO:	Gloria Hirashima
Marysville Finance Director:	Sandy Langdon
MFD Finance Manager:	Chelsie McInnis
Fire District 12 Commissioners:	Tonya Christoffersen, Pat Cook, Rick Ross
Marysville Fire Chief:	Martin McFalls
Consultant from Interface:	Neil Blindheim

### **Review of Agenda and Goals**

**Motion** made by Councilmember Muller, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the agenda and goals. **Motion** passed unanimously.

### **Action Item: Charter/Operating Rules**

CAO Hirashima reviewed the proposed Charter and Operating Rules which had been updated from the prior group to relate to this committee.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Councilmember Norton, to adopt the Charter and Operating Rules. **Motion** passed unanimously.

### **Fire Benefit Charge Consultant report and next steps**

CAO Hirashima introduced Neil Blindheim with Interface Systems, Inc. who had been hired to do a model of a fire benefit charge for the proposed RFA. Mr. Blindheim

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presented his report. Mr. Blindheim reviewed a model showing fire benefit charge factors and totals for 2018. CAO Hirashima discussed the fire benefit charge factors contained in the Committee packet. MFD Finance Director McInnis reviewed the 2020 RFA Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) Funding Capacity Analysis which shows how the FBC would interplay with other revenue sources.

Councilmember Muller asked if the net effect to residential could be less by allocating the actual cost for higher use properties. Mr. Blindheim confirmed that was true.

Commissioner Christoffersen asked about the possibility of a graduated increase in order to lessen the impact to the businesses and residents. Mr. Blindheim indicated that was a possibility.

Commissioner Ross asked Mr. Blindheim if he thinks this makes sense for Marysville. Mr. Blindheim replied that it is more difficult because Marysville doesn't have as much commercial as other jurisdictions he has worked with. Councilmember Muller asked why that would matter since it would still be beneficial. Mr. Blindheim concurred; he stated it would be worth exploring. It would also be better to have those things in place before the commercial corridor is developed.

Councilmember Muller asked why Thurston and Mason County stopped their FBC. Mr. Blindheim reviewed this.

Commissioner Cook asked if Mr. Blindheim thinks this is a better way of getting revenue. Mr. Blindheim thought that it was because of the flexibility and consistency in funding.

*Direction Requested: Does the committee want a FBC included in the RFA Plan as an initial funding source, or retained as a future funding option*

CAO Hirashima summarized some of the benefits and challenges of moving to a different system.

Commissioner Christoffersen stated she sees a need for it, but a risk, cost, and benefit analysis needs to be done in order to adequately educate the public. She suggested also having public meetings and rolling it out with the RFA. Finance Director Langdon clarified that the FBC could be incorporated as part of the RFA Plan and would only require one vote.

Commissioner Cook spoke to the value of being able to tell residents that their property taxes would be reduced as a result of this. There was discussion about the shift that would have to take place with commercial to make that happen.

Finance Manager McInnis pointed out that the FBC would only be collected on properties that have a structure while the property tax system would also pertain to land

without structures. CAO Hirashima suggested that staff could run data related to different scenarios and bring it back to the Commission.

Chief McFalls commented that it would take a lot longer if they were going to do true mathematical comparisons. He thinks the FBC would be more stable, but he has heard that the ideal formula is 60% commercial and 40% residential in the community. He expressed concern about the impact on commercial with Marysville's 70% residential. He noted that nobody is doing the FBC in Snohomish County because they already have the 50-cent EMS levy. King County EMS takes the 50 cents so that is why they do it. He expressed concern about having to go back to the voters every six years with the FBC when they have been able to go longer than six years with many of the levies already.

There was consensus to put this on the agenda for the next meeting and follow up with data from Finance Director Langdon and Finance Manager McInnis.

**Action item: Communications plan**

CAO Hirashima presented the proposed Communications Plan. Staff is proposing public forums on September 19 from 4-6 p.m. and September 27 after the RFA meeting.

Councilmember Norton asked about the expected date for the election. CAO Hirashima explained that remains to be determined. She commented that there needs to be a community forum and public process within the plan development itself.

**Presentation of Draft Plan, remaining issues**

CAO Hirashima introduced the Draft Plan on a page-by-page basis with comments taken as she went.

Discussion:

Page 4: Effective Date:

There was discussion about when to have this on the ballot. Finance Director Langdon reviewed voter turnout numbers by month for the last year. Mayor Nehring discussed other ballot measures coming up.

Commissioner Ross stated he preferred November because of expected better voter turnout. He also thinks SERS wouldn't be a hindrance to the RFA. The timing would also be beneficial for executing an ILA.

Commissioner Christoffersen asked if the ILA would be extended if they don't run it in November. Staff indicated that they would. Commissioner Christoffersen

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asked staff if it was even possible to run it in November. Staff indicated that it would be difficult. Chief McFalls spoke in support of an April election. Commissioner Christoffersen spoke in support of waiting in order to not overburden staff.

Commissioner Ross spoke to the need to have this on the ballot as soon as possible, but acknowledged the challenges. If they wait until April he recommended executing the ILA soon in order to solidify funding. Chief McFalls and Mayor Nehring concurred.

After some discussion of possible dates, there appeared to be consensus to push this back to April.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Councilmember Muller, to recommend to the City Council and Fire District 12 that the RFA measure be put on the ballot in April of 2019. **Motion** passed unanimously.

#### Page 7:

Chief McFalls commented that he has been keeping Quilceda Village in the loop on this, but the Navy Exchange needs to be added to this list.

Councilmember Muller asked if properties that are exempt from property tax within the boundaries of Fire District 12 would continue to be exempt from the Fire Benefit Charge. City Attorney Walker thought they could continue to operate with a contract as they currently do, but indicated he would confirm that.

#### Page 9: Governing Board Structure and Operation:

City Attorney Walker reviewed staff's sample verbiage. There appeared to be consensus to use that language

#### Page 10: Future Governing Board Changes:

Commissioner Cook asked if larger jurisdictions would get more seats. City Attorney Walker indicated that would be a policy decision the Commission could discuss.

The Commission appeared comfortable with the suggested language.

#### Page 12: RFA Revenues:

There appeared to be consensus to use the proposed EMS Levy language.

Commissioner Ross thanked staff for the effort they put into the Draft Plan. He noted that it is a really great starting point. Councilmember Muller concurred. CAO Hirashima

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thanked the Commission for moving through this so quickly. Mayor Nehring discussed next steps.

#### **Union Comment**

Cody Brooke, Union President, thanked the group for deciding on a date. He requested that the Commission properly fund them in the meantime with the ILA.

#### **Closing Roundtable comments**

Councilmember Vaughan had no comments.

Councilmember Norton had no comments.

Councilmember Muller said he was glad to be moving ahead.

Commissioner Ross thanked staff for all their work.

Commissioner Christoffersen thanked everyone for the efficient use of time.

Commissioner Cook expressed appreciation to staff for all their work.

Chief McFalls thanked the group for making this an easy process and having an efficient meeting.

Jon Walker had no comments.

Sandy Langdon had no comments.

Gloria Hirashima had no comments.

Mayor Nehring expressed appreciation to everyone for their work.

#### **Next Meeting**

July

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.