

MARYSVILLE FIRE DISTRICT
SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
July 7, 2021 – 6 pm
Station 62 / Virtual Via Zoom

Chairperson Stevens opened the Planning Committee meeting at 6:05 pm.

The following were in attendance:

Board of Directors:

Michael Stevens
Steve Muller
Tom King
Kamille Norton
Tonya Christoffersen
Rick Ross

Staff Members:

Martin McFalls, Fire Chief
Jeff Cole, Deputy Chief
Tom Maloney, Deputy Chief
Darryl Neuhoff, Deputy Chief
Chelsie McInnis, Finance Director
Paula DeSanctis, Board Secretary

Guests:

Grant Weed, District Attorney

Chief McFalls shared that Snohomish County Fire District #15 has proposed a new service contract from Marysville Fire District. Staff and Legal have reviewed and summarized the contract.

Finance Director McInnis stated the major terms identified in the contract proposal, summarized as follows.

Services: MFD will provide all fire/ems, hazmat, tech rescue, fire prevention, public education/information, fleet/facilities, finance/payroll, human resource, legal/risk management and employee training/education/career development services to FD15. All services must be at the same level of service provided currently within MFD.

Duration: The contract proposed will have an initial 15 year term with automatic 5 year term renewal unless otherwise terminated. The initial term may not be terminated by either party within the first 5 years.

Fee For Service: FD15 will pay MFD 100% of their annual revenues from all sources (less an amount for commissioner stipend and other defined separate administrative costs); payable quarterly. Caveat for valuation considerations of FD15 response into MFD.

Governance: One FD15 commissioner shall be appointed to the MFD board as a non-voting member.

Employees: All employees of FD15 will become employees of MFD at the current MFD pay scale, including administrative personnel, with the current FD15 fire chief becoming a deputy chief or assistant chief with MFD



Station Staffing: Staffing at Station 60: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with a minimum of (1) officer, (3) FF/EMT's, or paramedics if possible.

Fleet/Facilities: MFD is to provide all repair and maintenance to FD15 apparatus and fire stations and maintain records of such. FD15 shall retain ownership of all facilities/apparatus/equipment, unless otherwise noted for apparatus where there is the option to transfer to MFD provided the apparatus is replaced at fair market value in the event of termination.

McInnis reviewed the elements of financial and operational considerations to assist in making an informed decision on how to move forward, if at all.

District 15's assessed value is \$516M over a 15 square mile service area.

They have a 2021 revenue budget of \$2.9M. 42% is a negotiated contract with the Tulalip Tribes, 33% is collected property taxes, 15% is GEMT, 6% is transport fees, 3% is from grants, and 1% miscellaneous. Their operating costs are \$2.46M with 74% being personnel costs and 26% budgeted for M&O costs.

Challenges to be managed: Discussion commenced in regards to potential challenges to be managed: 64% of the service area is exempt from property tax collection; the largest revenue source is a negotiated contract; potential levy rate disparity; recoupment of the \$75k MFD revenues lost from termination of the FD15 ALS/BC services contract and the new mechanical services contract, and reduction in duplicate revenues. Challenges from the operations side could be the variance of wage/benefits package for comparable positions, the burden placed on MFD Administration as FD15 will have continuing obligations as a separate entity, and the potential liability implications for MFD assuming all FD15 operations. MFD will need to analyze the most efficient service delivery model for Station 60 to ensure proper utilization of resources is obtained resulting in real service enhancement to both entities. The governance model proposed is not possible under terms of the RFA Plan.

After much discussion the Board was in agreement for MFD staff to continue research and talks with FD15 and Tribal Council.

ADJOURNMENT

With no action required, the July 7, 2021, Planning Committee Workshop adjourned at 7:25 pm.



Martin McFalls
District Secretary



Date approved

