



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

Arlington City Council Chambers
110 East Third Street
July 27, 2017

Marysville Councilmembers Present: Jeff Vaughan, Jeff Seibert, Steve Muller

Arlington Councilmembers Present: Chris Raezer, Marilyn Oertle, Jessica Stickles, Mike Hopson, Debora Nelson, Jan Schuette.

FPD #12 Commissioners Present: Pat Cook, Tonya Christoffersen

Also known to be present were Karen Reed, Bob Nelson, Chris Andersson, City of Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring and staff members Gloria Hirashima, and Sandy Langdon; City of Arlington Mayor Barbara Tolbert and staff members Paul Ellis, Kristin Garcia, Kristin Banfield, Bruce Stedman, David Kraski, Greg Koontz, Brandon Asher, Bob Beam, Jason Abrahamson, Jason Nyblod, Willy Harper, Paul Lizarraga, Aaron Boede, Logan Harding, Nich Sacha, and Gregg Haddick; Fire Protection District #12 staff members Martin McFalls, Tom Maloney, Jeff Cole, Krista Longspaugh, and Darryl Neuhoff.

Arlington Mayor Barbara Tolbert called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Karen Reed provided the planning committee an overview of the agenda, the goals for the meeting, and requested approval of the agenda. Approval of the agenda was pass unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 29, 2017 MEETING

Ms. Reed requested the language on page 6 of the minutes from the June 29, 2017 meeting be clarified. The sentence will now read "She commented that if they created an RFA, the levy rate for Marysville and FD 12 people would be the same, and for Arlington people it would be two cents less."

Councilmember Steve Muller moved to approve minutes from June 29, 2017 meeting with the clarification provided on page 6. Councilmember Jessica Stickles seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETING DELIBERATIONS ON WHETHER TO PROCEED

Arlington

Mayor Tolbert summarized the Arlington City Council's conversation held on July 10, 2017 on whether to proceed further. She noted that the Council agreed unanimously to continue the discussions and examination with District 12 and the City of Marysville on the potential of an RFA. The Council hopes the discussion will clarify what sustainable means in respect to future operations, both in level of service and cost effectiveness. It is the Council's desire to see a clear business plan for joint operations that also addresses future growth as the City populations and businesses expand. They hope to see agreement on levels of service, cost of service and appropriate funding to meet the service needs.

On the question of values and principles that are important to Arlington in the RFA discussion, Mayor Tolbert shared that Arlington has great pride in the members of the Arlington Fire Department and feel a culture of civic pride is important. Questions were brought forward in how forming an RFA could meet the vision of expanding the existing teams as opposed to perceptions of a takeover. The Council values more efficiency in terms of resources, opportunities for training and staff development. A principle important to the Council is the ability to have strategic and growth plans in place to move to a more pro-active planning of fire and EMS services. It is important to meet the expectations of the tax payers in service provision and civic engagement. The Council also expressed the desire to be able to fully articulate to the Arlington tax payers the advantages of an RFA, both in service levels and sustainable funding. The discussion indicated that more definition than just saying better service is needed. The Council values an organization that is appropriately balanced for service delivery and administration. With respect to governance, it was important to Council members that Arlington's interest would be represented fairly in an expanded regional organization.

On the question of recommended process changes to make the future deliberations more productive, Mayor Tolbert reported the Arlington City Council is favorable to a facilitated process and indicated a need to continue to contract with Ms. Reed for facilitation.

Marysville

Mayor Nehring summarized the Marysville City Council's conversation on whether to proceed further. The Marysville City Council would also like to continue to study the RFA. The last RFA planning meeting advanced the discussion with good information coming from the Fire Chiefs.

As to what values and principles are important to the City of Marysville, Mayor Nehring reported that among the objectives for the RFA are better service or cost savings. The Marysville City Council would like to know the RFA is sustainable, not necessarily requiring continuous levy increases. The Council would like to see increased financial stability, improving the current situation. The Marysville Council values a governing structure that provides for an accountable board that considers the impact of taxation on citizens.

On the question of recommended process changes to make the future deliberations more productive, Mayor Nehring shared that the Marysville Council believes the addition of a facilitator has been helpful. The Council would like to hear from cities that have both formed

and rejected RFA's in recent years. He shared that there were varied opinions on the current monthly meeting schedule, with some members feeling that increasing the meeting frequency might be helpful and others feeling meeting once a month is sufficient.

District 12

Commissioner Christoffersen shared that District 12 is willing to continue the RFA discussions with the other two jurisdictions. The District sees positive potential of developing an RFA. They look forward to the opportunity to work as a unit to provide a better level of service for all three communities.

On the question of values and principles that are important to District 12 in the RFA discussion, Commissioner Christoffersen reported that the Commission sees value in the three agencies working together maintaining their mission and identities while increasing their core values and principles.

On the question of recommended process changes to make the future deliberations more productive, Commissioner Christoffersen noted the Commission would like to see two meetings per month, with one being a work session and the second being a regular meeting for taking actions. In addition, the Commissioners would like to see the entire elected bodies at benchmark meetings to help with communication.

Discussion followed. Ms. Reed asked clarifying questions of each agency to ensure deep understanding of the deliberations.

DOES THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AGREE TO CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF 2017 TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF AN RFA

Councilmember Stickles moved and Commissioner Christoffersen seconded the motion to have the Planning Committee continue to work through the remainder of 2017 to explore the feasibility and advisability of an RFA encompassing all three jurisdictions that will provide the same or better levels of service to the public, and to explore the terms and conditions under which such an RFA should be proposed. Discussion followed. The motion was approved unanimously.

DEVELOPING A STATEMENT OF SHARED VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Ms. Reed distributed a copy of the statement of shared values and principles that Snohomish Fire District No. 1 and the City of Lynnwood developed at the start of their RFA discussions. Ms. Reed asked those in attendance to share any items they felt were missing, needed to be deleted, or needed to be further refined. Councilmember Stickles stated she would like to see some reference to planning for growth that did not relate solely to capital needs. Ms. Reed asked the group if sustainable should be listed under the shared operating principles or if the language in item F covered it. Discussion followed with requests to refine the level of service definition, to include language that discusses contracts for outside agencies, and includes language sustainable funding and service provision.

Ms. Reed indicated that a revised version would be brought back to the August meeting for further review and refinement.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED APPROACH FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF EFFORT (AUGUST-DECEMBER)

Ms. Reed circulated a proposed outline for the next phase of the effort. Ideas were shared on the meeting schedules for August through December, including increasing meetings to two per month, extending current monthly meetings by an hour, and keeping the one meeting per month schedule and determine the 2018 schedule as we draw closer. It was noted that there is a conflict for the August and December meeting dates. A poll will be sent out to set dates for these two meetings.

Topics to be discussed in the next five months include confirming the decision making process, developing a charter, adopting a statement of values and principles, determining our expectations on services and costs, how to address governance. The committee will send a short end-of-year report to the full elected bodies that will outline accomplishments and work to be completed.

MEASURING CURRENT LEVELS OF SERVICE (LOS) AND ANTICIPATED IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN LOS IF AN RFA WERE CREATED

With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, Chiefs McFalls and Stedman reviewed the current levels of service for the departments and the anticipated immediate changes in levels of service if an RFA were created. Discussion followed.

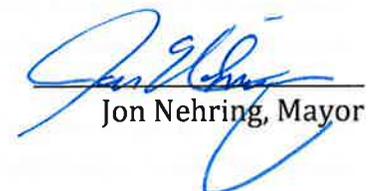
NEXT STEPS / NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be in Marysville. The date will be set based upon the results of the poll.

ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.


Barbara Tolbert, Mayor


Jon Nehring, Mayor