



Renton Regional Fire Authority
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MINUTES

RFA Governance Board Regular Meeting & Benefit Charge Appeal Review Board

10:00 A.M. – Monday, February 27, 2017

Fire Station #13 – 18002 108th Ave. S.E., Renton

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Governance Board Chair Prince called the Regular Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Governance Board Members Present:

Ed Prince, Chair (City of Renton)
Ray Barilleaux, Vice Chair (Fire District 25)
Kerry Abercrombie (Fire District 25)
Myron Meikle (Fire District 25)
Armondo Pavone (City of Renton)
Don Persson (City of Renton)
Linda Sartnurak (Nonvoting Advisory Position, Fire District 40)

Administrative Staff Present:

Attorney Brian Snure, Chief Rick Marshall, Deputy Chief Roy Gunsolus, Director of Administration Samantha Babich, Fire Marshal Anjela St. John, Battalion Chiefs Robert Homan and Doug McDonald, Captain Will Aho, Lieutenant Gary Harsh, Fire Inspector Eric Donnerstag, Administrative Assistant Sheila Madsen, and RFA Board Secretary Rhonda Heyden.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Executive Session will be added to discuss a personnel issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

There were not any announcements, proclamations, or presentations.

FIRE BENEFIT CHARGE REVIEW BOARD

The Renton Regional Fire Authority Governing Board convened as the Benefit Charge Appeals Review Board pursuant to RCW 52.26.250. The Review Board will remain convened until Monday, March 13, 2017. The Review Board will hold two public hearings to receive appeals, the first being February 27, 2017 and the second being March 8, 2017.

Lieutenant Gary Harsh gave a Staff Report/PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the purpose of the public hearing, benefit charge basics, and summary of appeals.

Docketed Appeals:

Barbara Downs Appeal, Parcel #1463400058. Appellant was not present. Square footage appeal in which King County records reflect 4,160 square feet and the property owner claims 3,723

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square feet, which is a difference of 437 square feet and \$27.79 of benefit charge. The property owner has contacted King County for a reassessment. Staff recommendation is to not change the square footage without a reassessment by King County.

Gilroy Family LLC Appeal, Parcel #1623059143 and Parcel #1623059062. Appellants were not present. Square footage, hazard factor and calculation error appeal for a mini storage facility. Appeal has been handled administratively.

Micky Porter Appeal, Parcel #4204400279. Appellant was not present. No specific appeal, rather he is appealing paying the fire benefit charge.

Wilson Royer Appeal, Parcel #6196600240. Appellant was present and chose to address the Board. Monitored fire alarm and calculation error appeal. Total square footage of 5,380, which includes a metal detached pole barn of 1,440 square feet. When combining the detached structure of 1,440 square feet with the residence, the category factor is assessed at a 2.25 Effective Response Force (ERF) factor rather than a 1.65 ERF. Mr. Royer stated that there is a 40 foot separation of space between the primary residence and detached garage, and that the probability of both structures simultaneously bursting into flames is very low. Mr. Royer also stated that he has a smart self-monitored alarm system in which his smoke and fire alarm systems are interconnected and report through his cell phone. He feels as though he has been over assessed \$256.85.

Fire Marshal Anjela St. John responded that the definition of a monitored alarm includes a third party company that monitors the alarm.

Sunnydale LLC, dba Sunnydale Mobile Home Park, Parcel #1623059022. Appellants were not present, but likely will attend the March 8, 2017 Review Board meeting. Sunnydale is appealing the mobile home pad fee. Staff recommendation is to leave the mobile home pad fees.

Other Appeals:

Ashley Dennis Appeal, 13735 161st Place SE, Renton. Mr. Dennis stated that he did not vote for the Proposition and the impact was not made clear to the voters. He lives in a new subdivision with smoke detectors and an ADT alarm. His house was built in 2012 and was built to code. He further stated that if Renton is growing, there should be more households to share the costs and if the Fire department is short-staffed, it is due to a mismanagement of funds. He is concerned with paying the benefit charge based on square footage, as he claims that his home is much safer since it is new and has been built to code. Mr. Dennis does not agree with the fire benefit charge, nor does he agree with the charge based on square footage and states that he is already paying taxes. He wants to appeal the benefit charge.

At 10:55 a.m., the Benefit Charge Appeals Review Board was recessed to reconvene at 5:00 p.m. on March 8, 2017. The Regular Meeting then resumed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were not any public comments.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Pavone and **SECONDED** by Board Member Abercrombie to approve the Minutes from the February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting. **MOTION CARRIED (6-0)**

Approval of Vouchers:

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Persson and **SECONDED** by Board Member Pavone to approve the vouchers which included the following:

- AP Check Register 2/1 - 2/15/17, Payroll 1/15 – 1/31/17. **MOTION CARRIED (6-0)**

SIGNING OF VOUCHERS

The members of the Finance Committee signed the Voucher Approvals for February 27, 2017.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Board Committee reports.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board Member reports.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Marshall's report included the following:

- Recruitment and Diversity: Chief Marshall agreed to chair the King County Fire Chief's sub-committee on firefighter recruitment and diversity.
- Renton Community Foundation: Chief Marshall has been working with Lynn Bohart, director of the Renton Community Foundation – an organization that provides assistance to and manages funds for many non-profit and charitable organizations in Renton.
- Fire Station 15: Due to legal issues with the contract, the City has yet to get the architect on board. This could create a delay in opening of Station 15.
- Recent Fires: There has been an increase in the number of residential fires, which appears to be related to the cold temperatures and the use of portable heaters and wood stoves. Fire Marshal St. John sent out a press release and posted on social media information related to the hazards of these heat sources and urged people to use extreme caution when using them.
- Battalion Chief Response Vehicle: The newest Battalion Chief response vehicle was placed in service on February 22. It was built to meet the new Zone 3 specifications and is rapidly becoming the industry standard for this type of vehicle.
- New Administrative Assistant: Sheila Madsen was introduced to the Board and is excited to join the team.
- ORCA/Ride Share: The program is being discontinued as of February 28, 2017, as it would have cost nearly \$100,000 and benefitted a very small number of participating employees.
- Response Operations Monthly Statistics: January statistics provided.
- Office of the Fire Marshal Statistics: January statistics provided.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

There were not any department reports.

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CORRESPONDENCE

There was not any correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was not any unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was not any new business.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Deputy Chief Gunsolus invited the Board to see the new command vehicle after the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting recessed at 11:26 a.m. into executive session for 10 minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee, in a forum that maintains the attorney client privilege, the legal risks of proposed actions that will likely result in adverse legal or financial consequences if the discussion is held in public. No official action took place.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 5:00 p.m. at Fire Station #13 (18002 108th Ave. S.E., Renton). This is a Special Meeting to reconvene the Benefit Charge Appeals Review Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.



Ed Prince, Board Chair

Recorded by: Rhonda Heyden, RFA Board Secretary