



**REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE
May 7, 2015**

Present: Jay Covington, Chief Admin Officer
Ed Prince (Chair), Renton City Council
Armondo Pavone, Renton City Council
Marcie Palmer, Renton City Council
Iwen Wang, FIT Administrator
Linda Sartnurak, KCFD #40
Jon Parkinson, KCFD #20 (Interim Chief)

Mark Peterson, Fire Chief
Chad Michael, Deputy Chief
Erik Wallgren, Deputy Chief
Ray Barilleaux, KCFD #25
Myron Meikle, KCFD #25
Kerry Abercrombie, KCFD #25
Lt. Steve Winter, Local 864
Lt. Will Aho, Local 864
Julie Bray, Fire District Liaison

1. The Committee meeting convened at 1400 hours.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes** – Commissioner Barilleaux made a **motion** to approve the minutes from the April 2nd, 2015 meeting as written. **Seconded** by Councilmember Pavone. **Motion passed unanimously.**
3. **RFA Finance Review/Discussion:**
FIT Administrator Wang met with the Fire District #25 Commissioners at their last meeting on April 21st to go over the Financial Presentation given to the Citizen’s Advisory Group. Some of the highlights:
 - It is expected that the RFA will be independent within 6 years. Initially, the RFA proposes to contract with the City for core internal support services, with the exception of a communications specialist that will be hired immediately to provide public information.
 - The City will take on the long-term debt for Fire Stations #13 & #15. At this time, Fire Station #15 is not to exceed 5.5 million. Commissioner Meikle asked who would make up the difference if the station isn’t built for 1-1/2 to 2 years (adjusting for inflation). He asked for an amendment or a change of wording that will indicate that the City will cover any overages. Councilmember Pavone asked for a worksheet or supporting documentation on the costs of building the station. Chief Peterson will research and get back to the Committee members.
 - Commissioner Abercrombie inquired whether the Retirees and the station asset transfer should be on the same worksheet. They will be broken out in a separate addendum.
 - Health & Wellness fund – need to identify how to transfer the funds.
 - Fleet Maintenance – The RFA proposes a three year contract with the City during the transition and then putting the contract out to bid.
 - The Capital Fund will need to be broken out – it is all under one account at this time.
 - The current staffing is insufficient. If the RFA is formed, 3 positions will be needed to staff Station #15 (15 firefighters). Additionally, three inspector positions will be added.

- It is projected that the cost to homeowners and businesses will be \$1.81/\$1000 Assessed Valuation (\$1.94 if Boeing is deducted out). At this point, \$1.94 is being used for discussion points. The Assessed Value for 2016 is projected at a 5% increase.
4. **Approval of RFA Plan Section 6 (Finance)** - The Committee refrained from approving Section 6, pending the following:
- Further define the Capital Fund
 - Supporting documentation on the costs of equipping and building Station 15
5. **RFA Citizen's Advisory Committee Feedback** – DC Michael reported that the committee has had their 4th and final meeting. He felt that the committee was extremely engaged and asked a lot of tough questions with varying opinions. During this meeting they discussed the need for an RFA and the different options available.
- The Committee volunteered to assist with critiquing the selling points if the RFA Planning Committee approves putting the RFA in front of the voters.
 - Commissioner Meikle asked about the other options available. Chief Peterson informed him that the Department could annex into Kent, annex into a different district, stay the same and try to collect a separate benefit charge. He explained that with an RFA, only one tax is being collected. It would be harder to collect 3 different taxes.
 - RFA Name – Chief Peterson explained that the name was brought up to the Citizen's Advisory Committee and they were unanimous in wanting to keep "Renton" in the name. Chief Schneider from Kent recommended changing the name at a later date if it needs to be changed.
 - Taxing Rate – Commissioner Meikle asked how the Citizen's Advisory Committee felt about the potential cost. They were adamant about the need for transparency and the need to be clear in terms of what the RFA is asking for.
 - Radio Vote – Jay Covington requested a breakdown of the recent radio vote by district. It might give the RFA an idea of where the voters are sitting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm. Next meeting will be June 11th at 2:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Recorded by:

Julie Bray, District #25 Liaison