



Renton Regional Fire Authority

18002 108th Ave SE
Renton, WA 98055
Office: (425) 276-9500
Fax: (425) 276-9592

MINUTES

RFA Governance Board Regular Meeting

4:00 P.M. – Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Video Conference

CALL TO ORDER

Governance Board Chair Pérez called the Regular Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Governance Board Members Present:

Kerry Abercrombie, Chair (Fire District 25)

Ruth Pérez, Vice Chair (City of Renton)

Marcus Morrell (Fire District 25)

Randy Corman (City of Renton)

Linda Sartnurak (Non-Voting Advisory Position, Fire District 40)

Governance Board Members Not Present:

Myron Meikle (Fire District 25)

Ryan McIrvine (City of Renton)

Administrative Staff Present:

Fire Chief Steve Heitman, Assistant Fire Chief Roy Gunsolus, Deputy Chief Chuck DeSmith, Deputy Chief Mark Seaver, Chief Administration Officer Samantha Babich, Fire Marshal Anjela Barton, Lieutenant Rico Laycock, RFA Legal Counsel Brian Snure, IT Technician Wyatt Humphreys, Administrative Supervisor Christine Noddings and Administrative Specialist Dudley Jackson.

Guests Present:

Major Isaias Braga

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Abercrombie and **SECONDED** by Board Member Corman to excuse the absent Board Members from this meeting. **MOTION CARRIED (4-0)**

Board Member McIrvine joined the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Add Fire Benefit Charge Hearing to the agenda after the Announcements, Proclamations and Presentations.

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Abercrombie and **SECONDED** by Board Member Corman to add Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) Hearing to the meeting agenda after Announcements, Proclamations and Presentations. **MOTION CARRIED (4-0)**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Battle of the Badges Trophy Presentation

Major Isaias Braga presented the Governance Board with the trophy as the winner of the Salvation Army Battle of the Badges fundraiser competition between the Renton PD and Renton RFA. The RFA raised \$3,401 to help families in need during the recent holiday season. The funds raised assisted in providing food carts to 1,200 families, serve 820 meals for the dinner program, provide over 400 diaper boxes, and distribute 4,650 toys to 1,000 children.

FIRE BENEFIT CHARGE HEARING

The Renton Regional Fire Authority Governing Board convened as the Benefit Charge Review Board, pursuant to RCW 52.26.250. The Review Board will remain convened until Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The Review Board will hold two public hearings to receive petitions, the first being February 9, 2021 and the second being February 23, 2021.

Lieutenant Rick Laycock gave a Staff Report which included a summary of the petitions.

There were no docketed petitions at the meeting.

At 4:13 p.m., the Benefit Charge Hearing was recessed to reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on February 23, 2021. The Regular Meeting then resumed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Morrell and **SECONDED** by Board Member Corman to approve the Consent Agenda for February 9, 2021. **MOTION CARRIED (5-0)**

SIGNING OF VOUCHERS

The members of the Governance Board signed the Voucher Approvals for February 9, 2021 via electronic signature.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Board Committee reports.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Heitman's report included the following:

- **Congratulations are in Order:** Job well done to Firefighters Riley Ayers, Adam Bloom, Zach Forghani, Bryan Lane Jr. and Schuyler Nagorski for completing their JATC apprenticeship and becoming journeyman firefighters! In addition, Firefighters Nick Felt, Sean Leahy, Cody Olson, Kasey Parker and Travis Retherford successfully passed their 2B step, and Firefighter James Hopf passed his 2A step.
- **PSERN Project Update:** We are completing our final radio inventory for the King County PSERN project. The RRFA receives one radio for every active radio we have in inventory, making inventory accuracy important. There will be additional costs, including mobile radios, dual-

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band radios and mics, among others yet to be determined, to the RRFA before this project is complete. Those costs will be part of the 2022 Budget.

- KCFD 40 Negotiations: We've provided data to ESCI and have begun negotiations with KCFD #40 for a fire and emergency services operating agreement. The first meeting was held on January 21st and the second meeting on February 8th. Interests of both parties were discussed, and common ground rules have been identified to build a collaborative relationship.
- Governance Board Notifications: Per our procurement process and policy, I am notifying the Board of the following purchases. These have already been shown on the vouchers.
Gazoscan Hand-held Remote Methane Detector – \$24,079.55

DIVISION REPORTS

Response Operations:

- Each year the RFA presents an award for the top engine company that is submitted by the Battalion Chiefs. This honor is usually presented at the annual awards banquet which is not happening this year due to COVID. This year's top engine company is Engine 313, D Shift which includes LT Mike Bain, Eng. Carl Pedersen and FF Sean Leahy. The top Aid Company and Ladder company will be determined later this week.
- The 2021 Response Ops Workplans are completed and have been posted on SharePoint. There are workplans from all teams which includes Water Rescue, Hazmat, Technical Rescue, Response Operations. The plans are based on the budget and training objectives, posted on SharePoint and are designed to keep the fire chief informed of the work being done by Response Ops.
- The 2020 Response Ops Metrics Report and Service Delivery Report have been provided. These reports show our performance standards and provide annual stats and quarterly metrics such as turnout times, response times, station reliability, unit availability, transport counts, mutual aid given/received, rescue team responses, response volume, and call volume.
- Significant calls included a serious MVA on 300 Main involving a Renton PD officer who was not severely hurt. There was also an amazing EMS save which resulted in compliments from the attending physician at Children's Hospital. The patient is back home and doing well. There was also a significant residential fire that our crews were able to keep to the room of origin where the fire started. And another serious MVA on Benson Dr that involved a striped patient and three critical patients who were transported to Harborview. The extrication time and time to the ER was within the hour which is an amazing performance by our crews.
- Training is still being impacted by COVID. Due to COVID, the normal firefighter fundamentals training for hands-on firefighter basics skills training was cancelled. The Hazmat Team continued their Saturday training with a focus on rapid recon. The Water Rescue Team did shore-based dives for their training, and the Rope Team also drilled.

Office of the Fire Marshal:

- OFM staff completed 225 inspections in January. There will be a lower amount of inspections in 2021 due to the implementation of the compliance engine for tracking third party test reports of fire protection systems. OFM will monitor those initial failures of sprinkler test reports, fire alarm reports, and hood systems in restaurants, and will send out letters to businesses regarding those initial failures and violations requesting the identified issues be corrected. It is anticipated that 80% to 90% of those businesses will come into compliance

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after receiving the initial letter, resulting in a dip in the number of inspections by the end of the year. OFM will only follow up on those properties that refuse to correct the identified issues, allowing staff to be more efficient with their time and follow up on problem areas.

- There were 5 fire investigations in January. Total loss was low at about \$100,000 for the month. The investigations comprised of 2 accidental fires and 3 incendiary fires.

Administration:

- The 2020 financial report was provided to the Budget/Finance Committee and Operations/Capital Committee. CAO Babich shared ending balances with the Board. The net balance for all RFA funds total \$35MM, resulting in the RFA being in a healthy financial position.
- The RFA is working with a new company called LifeScan Centers for firefighter and civilian personnel physicals. The physicals done by LifeScan are much more thorough and meet all NFPA 1582 requirements. All traditional bloodwork, physicals, lab tests, cardiopulmonary testing, stress testing, fitness evaluations, and ultrasound screenings of all major organs are included. The services with LifeScan will begin between August and September. Northwest Firefighter Trust is covering the physicals under member medical insurance at 100% with no deductible. This will save the RFA about \$140,000 per year.

Support Services:

- Lieutenant Laycock is finishing up with fire benefit charges for this year. He has been crucial in handling fire benefit charges at the consortium. The consortium has been providing citizen support for Renton, Puget Sound, Fire District #40 and Graham. Lieutenant Laycock is also finishing up with the current grant cycle which is due on Friday. The Planning section will be moved to Renton Administration Headquarters in the near future to begin work on accreditation.
- Facilities is preparing for the 2021 projects. They installed a second set of washers and dryers and set up a new barbeque at Station 12 that was donated to the organization by a Renton Highlands civilian.
- Logistics just finished a reorganization of their current shelving in preparation for changes in distribution to the stations. Captain Dan Hawkins and Richard Wolleat did a great job with outfitting the new recruits for the fire academy. There was a lot of equipment that had to be prepared in a short amount of time for the recruits.

EMS / Health & Safety:

- Chief DeSmith shared the 4th quarter chaplain metrics and 2020 chaplain program review with the Board. The chaplains were dispatched into Renton a little over 6 times a month in 2020. Throughout the pandemic, the chaplains responded to calls to support families and their extended families to connect them with resources during their time of need. The chaplains also assisted with debriefs after difficult calls and supported funerals throughout the state.
- Renton firefighters are staffing two of the COVID mass testing sites to provide vaccinations. A mobile vaccination unit (MVU) will be staffed with firefighters and a nurse or paramedic to provide vaccinations to residents of adult family homes, with a targeted start date of February 22. Renton RFA is partnering with City of Renton to coordinate scheduling and dose counts.

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The RFA hopes to eventually reach vulnerable populations that are eligible per the governor's vaccination tiers.

- This is the second week the RFA has implemented Fee for Transport. The RFA is looking to have data available from the Fee for Transport program in the coming months. Results from this year will determine whether the RFA qualifies for GEMT in 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE

King County Fire District 20 Thank You Letter

The RFA received a thank you letter from Chief Hicks with KCFD #20 for our assistance with the 3-alarm fire at the Green Tree Apartments on 12/23/2020.

Customer Kudos for Aid 313

The RFA received a phone call from a Renton patient regarding the services she received from FF A. Parker and FF Forghani on Aid 13. The patient had nothing but wonderful things to say about the service the crew provided her. She was especially impressed with her interaction with FF Parker and the graciousness in which he spoke with her. She very much appreciated the help she was provided and how they treated her.

Welling Family Facebook Post

The Welling family shared their heartfelt thank you to the Renton RFA on Facebook for the amazing job the crews did in saving their daughter. Engine 15 joined the parade to celebrate her return home from the hospital and crews also checked up on her to see how she was recovering.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

OFM Waiver of 2021 False Alarm Fees

False alarm fees are adopted by the Renton City Council and included in the City of Renton Fee Schedule. Fees are assessed as follows: alarms 1-3 no fee, alarms 4 & 5 \$150, subsequent alarms \$250. The intent of the fees is to reduce preventable alarms through engineering or changes in behavior. We do not bill for alarms associated with living units for fear that occupants may disable their alarm to avoid false alarm fees, thereby creating a safety concern. COVID has had a negative financial impact for many businesses and multi-family housing providers. Due to Covid19 restrictions and the impacts of the eviction moratorium are having on Renton businesses, we are requesting approval to waive the fees associated with false alarm for 2021. COVID has had significant impact to our business community and waiving these fees may assist them financially. The projected impact of this temporary waiver in 2021 would be an approximate \$10,000 reduction in permit revenue.

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Corman and **SECONDED** by Board Member Abercrombie to approve the proposed waiver of false alarm fees and authorize staff to waive these fees in 2021 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED (5-0)**

NEW BUSINESS

Station 15 Refund from City of Renton

When the city had built Station 15 there was a lump sum of money set aside for building and furnishing the station. Late last year the RFA was refunded \$866,000 of unspent funds from that project. The refund amount is very similar to the cost of a pumper which was spent ahead of time outside of receiving this refund. There was discussion in the committee meetings about options on what fund

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to deposit this refund money into. The committees expressed the desire to see the money put in either the fleet fund, the facilities fund or split half and half between the fleet and facilities funds. The discussion in the operations/capital meeting regarding what to do with the refund prompted additional discussion about having enough money to get started on a site survey and architectural planning for Station 16. We are looking for direction from the Governance Board on where the board would like the refund deposited based on the options discussed. We need to decide what fund the money will be put into prior to filing our financial statement for 2020 in May.

The report out of the Station 15 refund from the city was provided to all Board members. No action was needed since the report was information only.

Station 11 Tenant Remodel

We would like to move forward with the demolition and build-out of the Fire Station #11 dorms and bathrooms and finish the sprinkler system to include all living areas. This project provides fully enclosed private dorm rooms and removes the large men's bathroom, replacing it with 4 individually enclosed bathrooms. Additionally, this completes the sprinkler system project that previously only included the truck bay and expands it to include all the living areas. Fire Station #11 houses 6 firefighters, 2 medics and a BC. This is specifically being addressed for safety concerns and for the privacy and well-being of our firefighters. There was previously a remodel done, but due to the small scope of the project, sprinklers were not added to the living areas. There currently is a large men's bathroom, but only a single small bathroom for our growing number of female firefighters. Additionally, the dorm rooms are not fully enclosed with doors, just partitions. There was \$800,00 budgeted for this project. We had our architect go through and come up with some designs and we picked a design that worked the best. A mock bid was prepared by Alegis which came in at \$651,085. For every 6 months that elapses from the original bid, the price increases by 4%.

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member McIrvn and **SECONDED** by Board Member Corman to start the bid process and move forward with the Fire Station #11 dorm and bathroom remodel and sprinkler system addition as presented. **MOTION CARRIED (5-0)**

Department of Ecology Grant

The Renton RFA would like to accept an additional \$81,500 from the Department of Ecology to purchase equipment for the Hazardous Materials Response Team. The Dept. of Ecology awarded the Renton RFA a 100% no matching grant earlier this year. We have already purchased and been reimbursed for \$93,500. DOE reached out and offered an additional \$81,500, as our initial request had been cut back, and they now have additional funding available. This is a 100% no matching grant. We will purchase the remainder of the equipment we had initially requested.

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member McIrvn and **SECONDED** by Board Member Corman to accept the additional Dept. of Ecology Grant for \$81,500 for Hazmat equipment as presented. **MOTION CARRIED (5-0)**

Purchase of Ballistic Vests

Ballistic vests are used to protect our members when they respond to scene of violence. The plates in ballistic vests have a 5-year life span and must be replaced in order to maintain the integrity of the equipment. Renton RFA has been working over the past three years to get all members individual

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vests as part of their PPE due to the increased danger in the field. Purchase new ballistic vests and replacement plates for members (\$44,861 + tax) and purchase ballistic vests for new recruits and new fire chief (\$7,056 + tax).

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Corman and **SECONDED** by Vice Chair Morrell to approve the purchase of new ballistic vests and replacement plates as presented. **MOTION CARRIED (5-0)**

GOOD OF THE ORDER

There was no good of the order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with District legal counsel, in a forum that maintains the attorney client privilege, legal risks of a proposed action or current practice that the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation or legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Abercrombie and **SECONDED** by Board Member Corman to move into Executive Session. **MOTION CARRIED (5-0)**

Executive Session was called at 5:00 p.m. for 15 minutes. At 5:15 p.m., another 10 minutes was requested. The meeting reconvened at 5:25 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 9:00 a.m., Budget/Finance Committee Meeting, Video Conference
- Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m., Governance Board Special Meeting, Video Conference
- Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 10:30 a.m., Operations/Capital Committee Meeting, Video Conference
- Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 4:00 p.m., Governance Board Regular Meeting, Video Conference

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member McIrvine and **SECONDED** by Vice Chair Morrell to adjourn the Governance Board Regular meeting. **MOTION CARRIED (5-0)**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.


[Ruth Pérez \(Mar 10, 2021 16:08 PST\)](#)

Ruth Pérez, Board Chair


[Christine Noddings \(Mar 10, 2021 09:06 PST\)](#)

Christine Noddings, Board Secretary







2021-02-09 Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2021-03-11

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