



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

10:00 A.M. – Monday, October 11, 2021

Fire Station #13 – 18002 108th Ave SE, Renton

CALL TO ORDER

Governance Board Chair Pérez called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Governance Board Members Present:

Ruth Pérez, Chair (City of Renton)
Marcus Morrell, Vice Chair (Fire District 25)
Ryan McIrvin (City of Renton)
Myron Meikle (Fire District 25)
Randy Corman (City of Renton)
Linda Sartnurak (Non-Voting Advisory Position, Fire District 40)

Governance Board Members Not Present:

Kerry Abercrombie (Fire District 25)

Administrative Staff Present:

Fire Chief Steve Heitman, Chief Administration Officer Samantha Babich, Deputy Chief Chuck DeSmith, Deputy Chief Mark Seaver, Deputy Chief William Aho, Lieutenant Laycock, Facilities Manager Scott Murphy, Fleet Manager Brice Callaway, IT Technician Wyatt Humphreys, Sr. Finance Specialist Jennifer Zhou, Administrative Supervisor Christine Noddings, Administrative Specialist Eryn Villa, and RFA Attorney Brian Snure.

Board Member Abercrombie arrived at the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Public Present

Mayor Armando Pavone (City of Renton)

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

- Fire Chief Heitman shared with the Governing Board the Proclamation of October 11, 2021 as Don Persson Day in recognition of Don Persson's past contributions to the Renton Fire Authority. Mayor Pavone, Board Member Meikle, and Board Member Corman shared words of appreciation for Don's service to the City of Renton and the RFA.
- CAO Samantha Babich provided a high-level overview of the 2022 Budget which included Operating Fund Revenues & Expenditures by Division.

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSITION NO. 1 – REAUTHORIZATION OF FIRE BENEFIT CHARGE

Board Chair Pérez opened the Public Hearing at 10:24 a.m. The minutes of the Public Hearing are contained in a separate Report of the Public Hearing.

The board returned to the regular meeting at 10:30 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Morrell and **SECONDED** by Board Member Corman to approve the consent agenda for October 11, 2021. **MOTION CARRIED (6-0)**

SIGNING OF VOUCHERS

The members of the Governance Board signed the Voucher Approvals for October 11, 2021.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Board Committee reports.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Heitman's report included the following:

- Members of the Quarter: Please join me in congratulating Chris Gerke as Officer of the 2nd Quarter and Richard Wolleat as Civilian of the 2nd Quarter! Chris and Richard consistently exemplify our core values, and we appreciate their dedication to our department and community.
- Senior Lunch Distribution: On September 22nd, our Public Educator (Sara Ferguson), Ladder 311 crew (Marc Donnell, Brandon Weeks, and Kasey Parker) and I participated in the Renton Senior Center's daily lunch distribution. Seniors visit the center and pick up their lunch in a drive-thru format, in which we served 30 senior citizens and provided fire safety information as well as the Proposition 1 flyers.
- Executive Leadership Academy: The Seattle Fire Department Executive Leadership Academy for fire service executive training will launch on October 15th, and DC Will Aho, CAO Samantha Babich and BC Erik Hammes have been accepted into the program.
- Committee Updates/Community Involvement: I was nominated to be the new Garage Consortium Governing Board Chair at the end of last month. In addition, Eric Holdeman, a well-known expert and thought leader in the field of emergency management, called and requested I become a panelist for a maritime rapid damage assessment.
- Commissioner Coffee Meetings: I met with each of the King County Fire District 40 Commissioners over coffee to connect and address feedback for areas of opportunity and areas of success. It was a great way to kick off our avenue of open communication between the KCFD 40 Board of Commissioners and RFA staff, and I will be attending the upcoming Washington Fire Commissioners Association conference this month to see how we can further develop our partnership.
- Community Group Proposition 1 Presentations: Our Administration team has reached out to Homeowners Associations (HOA) and other Renton community groups to schedule time for RFA leadership to present information about Proposition 1 to their members leading up to the November 2nd election. Groups we've completed presentations for include the Windwood HOA, Soroptimist of Renton group, and Ambassador Committee of the Chamber of Commerce (CoC). Other community groups on the calendar between now and November 2nd include

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Aspenwoods HOA, North Renton Neighborhood HOA, Victoria Hills HOA, Renton PTA Council, additional groups through the Chamber of Commerce, and more.

- Governance Board Notifications: Per our procurement process and policy, I am notifying the Board of the following purchase(s):
 - 20 Replacement SCBA Bottles – \$29,727.00
 - Station 15 Flood Repairs - \$20,229.75

DIVISION REPORTS

EMS/Health Safety

- Deputy Chief DeSmith provided a billing update on the new Treat & Refer Program as well as an update on HB1310 to be delivered in 2022.

Office of the Fire Marshal

- Deputy Chief Aho delivered the report on behalf of Fire Marshal Barton. Fires have reduced indicating we are outside of fire season. New construction projects include the new transit center on Rainier/Grady and a new elementary school in the Highlands neighborhood. Public Educator Sara Ferguson is now visiting schools as part of the 2021 Fire Safety Program. A grant was received for \$18,000 to purchase a portable Hazard House and Hazard Kitchen.

Response Operations

- Significant Incidents: 9/4 Residential Fire on NE 4th Ct, 10/3 Shooting at Plum Tree Condos.
- Training: Annual Live Fire, Rope Tech/Boat Operator/Open Water Diver Training, JATC prep, Night dive w/ VRFA at Angle Lake, and extraction training.
- Public Outreach: Aid car coverage for Renton Stadium football, support for Ironman event at Lake Wilderness, Senior Renton Center Lunch Distribution, HOA meetings.
- Operations: 1st recruit academy evals, annual hose testing, Lt written exam, Sunset Oaks walk-thru off NE 10th St

Support Services

- Deputy Chief Seaver updated the Board on a recent flood event at Station 15 due to a sensor malfunction in the adjacent water tower.
- Meetings with King County are ongoing for land repurposing at Station 16.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Station 11 Remodel Bid Acceptance

The Fire Station #11 Dorm and Bathroom & Sprinkler System Remodel was awarded to the Christensen Construction bid of \$743,000. The project cost total comes out to \$867,704. The total project budget is \$881,000.

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A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Corman and **SECONDED** by Board Member Meikle to award the Fire Station #11 Dorm and Bathroom Remodel & Sprinkler System Completion to Christensen Construction and authorize Fire Chief Heitman to sign the contract. **MOTION CARRIED (6-0)**

GOOD OF THE ORDER

There was no good of the order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monday, October 25, 2021, 9:00 a.m., Budget/Finance Committee Meeting, Video Conference
- Monday, October 25, 2021, 10:30 a.m., Operations/Capital Committee Meeting, Video Conference
- Monday, November 8, 2021, 4:00 p.m., Governance Board Regular Meeting, Fire Station #13 (18002 108th Ave SE, Renton) / Video Conference

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.



[Ruth Pérez \(Nov 8, 2021 18:00 PST\)](#)

Ruth Pérez, Board Chair



Evyn Villa, Board Secretary



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REPORT OF PUBLIC HEARING TO SET FORTH THE RENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY'S PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE THE BENEFIT CHARGE

The Renton Regional Fire Authority (RRFA) established October 11, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m. as the date and time for a public hearing to set forth its proposal to continue the utilization of a benefit charge to support the delivery of emergency services, as required by RCW 52.26.230(1).

Notice of the public hearing to be held on October 11, 2021 was posted at the RFA's Headquarters Station 13 and on the Renton RFA website.

October 11, 2021

I. OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING

Board Chair Ruth Pérez opened the public hearing portion of the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Persons in attendance were Board Members Ruth Pérez, Marcus Morrell, Ryan McIrvine, Myron Meikle, Randy Corman, Linda Sartnurak, and Kerry Abercrombie; Fire Chief Steve Heitman, Chief Administration Officer Samantha Babich, Deputy Chief Chuck DeSmith, Deputy Chief Mark Seaver, Deputy Chief William Aho, Lieutenant Rick Laycock, Facilities Manager Scott Murphy, Fleet Manager Brice Callaway, IT Technician Wyatt Humphreys, Sr. Finance Specialist Jennifer Zhou, Administrative Supervisor Christine Noddings, Administrative Specialist Evyn Villa, and RFA Attorney Brian Snure.

Board Chair Pérez made the following opening statements:

This hearing is being held for the purpose of meeting the requirements of RCW 52.26.230(1). That section requires a hearing no fewer than ten days nor six months before the election, setting forth the RFA's proposed benefit charge and explaining how the benefit charge will support the RFA's legal authorized activities.

I will now ask the RFA's legal counsel, Mr. Brian Snure, to provide a brief procedural overview for the RFA's proposal, known as the Renton Regional Fire Authority Proposition 1.

Following legal counsel, I will ask that the Chief provide a historical overview of the RFA's use of the benefit charge and its role in funding emergency services provided by the RFA.

After hearing from the legal counsel and the Chief, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide input to the Board and make statements to the record.

Mr. Snure will now provide an overview of the legal process.

II. LEGAL COUNSEL STATEMENT

Legal Counsel Brian Snure provided the following information:

The legal procedures for the benefit charge are straight forward. When the RFA was formed, the initial benefit charge was approved by voters that required a super majority vote. The present proposal is to ask the voters to approve a 10-year benefit charge. For it to pass – a simple majority voter approval is required. Once passed, the RFA Governance Board has the authority to establish a benefit charge to supplement the RFA's revenue each year.

That process does not change with the 10-year benefit charge. Every year before November 15th, there will be a benefit charge hearing to identify the amount of the benefit charge and allow for public comment. The benefit charge will be listed on tax statements for all property owners within the RFA jurisdiction. Property owners will then be given an opportunity in February of each year to protest or question their benefit charge. Once that is completed and charges are paid, the process repeats itself.

III. FIRE CHIEF PRESENTATION

Chief Heitman read the following statement:

The benefit charge is an extremely important component of the RFA's funding source. The RFA has always respected having the authority to impose the benefit charge and has never taken that authorization for granted.

The benefit charge provides funding for approximately 40% of the RFA's operating budget. It allows the RFA to maintain staffing, training, service levels, and fund facility improvements, apparatus and equipment replacement that may otherwise require bond or more frequent levy lid lift measures.

The failure of the benefit charge would force the RFA to run the benefit charge measure again in 2022, causing increased election costs. Or the RFA can choose to abandon the benefit charge method of revenue collection and run a levy lid lift to restore the levy rate back to the statutory maximum of \$1.50 per thousand of assessed value.

If unsuccessful in 2022, by law, the RFA's property tax rate would increase by approximately \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation over the approximate current rate of \$0.81 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The amount raised by the statutory property tax increase would not replace the amount of funding generated by the fire benefit charge (over 40% of our current budget) and the RFA may be required to reduce service levels.

The RFA has been a good steward of the funds collected through the benefit charge and hopes to have earned the public's trust to continue with this method of funding emergency services.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comment section of the hearing was opened at 10:28 a.m.

There was no public comment. Board Chair Pérez closed the public comment period at 10:29 a.m.

V. BOARD DISCUSSION

No additional discussion occurred.

VI. CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Board Chair Pérez closed the public hearing at 10:30 a.m.

Dated this 11th day of October 2021.

ATTEST

Evyn Villa

Evyn Villa, Board Secretary
Renton Regional Fire Authority








2021-10-11 Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2021-11-09

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