

Klickitat County Fire District 3 Commissioners Meeting
119 NE Church Street
July 10, 2023, at 1700 (5 pm)

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
West Klickitat County Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee

I. **Call to order.17:00**

- **The City of WS and KCFD3 called their meetings to order.**
- **Attendance/ Roll Call:** Commissioner Montag, Commissioner Connor, Commissioner Virts (Quorum). City Council Members: Jason Hartman, Ben Giant (remote), Jim Ransier- (Quorum).

Also present: Stephanie Porter (WS Clerk Treasurer), Chief Hunsaker (WSFD), Troy Rosenburg (City Manager), Bob Merritt (mHc Associates), Chief Long (KCFDd3), Rozalind Plumb (Dist. Secretary), Jennifer McLean (Admin. Assistant), Eric Bosler (KCFD3), Ron Reynolds (KCFD3), Eric Wilson (Task Force)

- **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve agenda made by Commissioner Virts, Seconded by Commissioner Connor, All in favor of the agenda, no objections. Motion passed.

II. **Business items:**

A. **Final West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority Plan.**

1. **Presentation:** Robert Merritt.
 - **Fire Action Plan:** One year ago, the two agencies met and introduced the Fire Action Plan. The goal was to look at current levels of service and review potential enhancements to service by combining the agencies. The outlook is for a growing area with a growing demand for emergency services.
 - **Citizen Task Force** was established. The group met between September and December 2022 and put forward an independent report for recommendations. The group concluded that the Greater White Salmon Community would be better served from a regional approach.
 - **WKRFA Planning Committee.** (RCW 52.26.040) White Salmon City Council and Klickitat County Fire District 3 Commissioners agreed to establish the West Klickitat Regional Fire Protection Authority (WKRFA) Planning Committee to discuss and prepare a plan that would be presented to the public for a vote. Per RCW 53.26.040 (1) "A regional fire protection service authority planning committee shall adopt a regional fire protection service authority plan providing for the governance, design, financing, and development of fire protection and emergency services." The Planning Committee covered all the requirements of RCW 52.26.040 (except the section establishing an ambulance service that would compete with an existing private ambulance service, as it is not applicable)

2. **Public Hearing:**

- Eric Bosler: Resident of KCFD3, volunteer for KCFD3 since 2014, Fire Prevention Coordinator, and Secretary to the KCFD3 Volunteer Firefighters Association.
 - Thanked the Committee for their work. Noted that KCFD3 established a task force to give recommendations several years ago and believes the district is stronger because of it.
 - Regarding the latest task force study, he noted that there have been concerns. While there may be flaws in the data there are no flaws in the recommendations. The recommendations will make the RFA strong.
 - The Governing board should be made up of elected members to serve only the RFA.
 - Operations: When hiring leadership staff please look to finding the most skilled, most experienced, most professional that you can find. The organizations thrive on volunteers but the professional leadership makes it strongest.
 - The Volunteers are the heart that drives the service. They must be engaged participants in the mission, goals, and functions of the RFA.
- Eric Wilson. Resident KCFD3, member of Citizen task force.
 - This is the first step in making the RFA work. The intent in looking at the data was to stabilize the funding to establish enough critical mass to be able to build a program that helps the volunteers be more successful. He expressed concern about being too strict on the roles of the Full Time Employees. He noted that depending on the individual the exact roles may change. The critical roles are for Volunteer recruitment, retention, and training.

3. Discussion:

Jim Ransier

Section 6. F.7.e. major and minor repair definition – requested additional wording to reflect the definition of major or minor repairs will be established by the governing board. “The definition of major and minor repairs shall be negotiated between the participating jurisdictions as part of the deployment plan.”

Section 6 F 9. Fire fighter Associations: Brian Snure (Legal Counsel) had indicated that the reference to the firefighter associations can be removed. It was noted by Robert Merritt, that the volunteers had been concerned about the topic and leaving the plan it was effectively memorializing the existence of the volunteer associations and their independence from the governing board of the RFA. In that context Jim Ransier was content to leave it in the plan.

No further discussion

4. Action: Motion for Planning Committee to adopt the Final WKRFA Plan.
Motion to adopt the WKRFA Plan as amended made by Commissioner Montag, seconded by Councilor Ransier.
(6 yay, 0 nay) motion passed unanimously.
5. Action: Motion to forward the Final WKRFA plan to the City Council and Fire District 3
Commissioners to initiate the election process under RCW 52.26.060.
“Motion to move the plan forward to the City Council and the Fire District” made by Commissioner Montag, seconded by Councilor Ransier.
(6 yay, 0 nay) motion passed unanimously.

The Joint Resolution and explanatory statement are currently with City of White Salmon Legal Counsel.

The Pro/Con Committees will be coordinated with both agencies as the process moves forward. A pro statement already exists. There has been no response from a con committee to date.

III. Next meeting dates:

July 13th - Present the plan KCFD3 Commissioners

July 19th - Present the plan to the White Salmon City Council.

August 1st Deadline to submit the ballot measure to the County for the November election.

IV. ADJOURN.

"Motion to adjourn," made by Commissioner Montag, seconded by Commissioner Connor.

(6 yay, 0 nay)

Meeting adjourned at 17:30 hrs.


APPROVED BY:

Attest:


Chairman – Commissioner Thomas Montag (date)


District Secretary Rozalind Plumb


Commissioner Robert Connor (date)


Commissioner Charles Virts (date)