SOUTH KING FIRE
February 19, 2025
Station 68 and Virtual

Commissioner Baruso called the Special Meeting to order at 1700 hours with Commissioners Vadino, Burrus, Gates and Fuller in attendance. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Burrus.

To listen to the full meeting, please visit our website.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Fuller had no comments.

Commissioner Burrus had no comments.

Commissioner Vadino had no comments.

Commissioner Gates had no comments, but a question. After reading the B Shift Rotational Highlights it mentioned a recognition at Federal Way City Hall for Engine 362, what was that for? Executive Director Ganem reported that they recognized the firefighters that went to California for the wildfires.

Commissioner Baruso had no comments.

PUBLIC COMEMNTS

There were no public comments.

CONCLUDING FBC REVIEW BOARD PERIOD

Commissioner Baruso thanked everyone for attending this meeting as we conclude the review period for the benefit-charge petitions as established under RCW 52.18.070. Over the past two weeks, the Benefit-Charge Review Board has carefully considered each petition submitted by property owners who raised concerns about the amount of their benefit charges.

Pursuant to RCW 52.18.070, the Board of Fire Commissioners shall, upon compliant in writing of a party aggrieved owning property in the District, reduce the charge a person who, in the Board's opinion, has been charged too large a sum, to a sum or amount as the Board believes to be the true, fair and just amount.

Executive Director Ganem added that this is another step in the process of having passed the Fire Benefit Charge as we move forward to submitting the information to the county in short order and collection begins in April. As required, we formed a committee to review the petitions. We have already learned some lessons. Out of the 38,000 postcards that were mailed to our residents, we received about 211 petitions. The FBC Review Board consisting of Executive Director Ganem, Fire Marshal Nichols and Finance Supervisor Barrett reviewed the 211 petitions and have information for the Board to consider tonight.

Finance Supervisor Barrett added that out of the 211 petitions that we received:

- 30% of them were for square footage corrections
- 43% were for financial hardships
- 8% were that they don't agree with the FBC
- 7% were for sprinkler discounts
- 12% were for alarm discounts
- 1% was for other

In addition to the FBC Review Board meeting, the Prevention Staff also reviewed the available site plans to verify the square footage. They also reviewed permits to look at sprinklers so we could confirm that they did in fact have sprinklers. So out of the 211 petitions, the committee is recommending approving 21 of the square footage petitions; zero of the financial hardship petitions; zero of the don't agree with FBC petitions; 12 of the sprinkler petitions; and 21 of the monitored alarm discount petitions and one of the other petitions, which was a partial church. For a total of 55 petitions.

Commissioner Burrus moved that the Board adopts the provided table of reduced benefit charges, as recommended by the Review Board. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vadino. Commissioner Fuller asked what the total amount is? Finance Supervisor Barrett replied that the total amount is $3,615.42. Commissioner Gates inquired what are the parameters for the financial hardship? Legal Counsel Quinn replied that under RCW, the benefit charge has to be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefit and the benefit charges based upon the benefits conferred. It is not based upon the finances of the property owner and as soon as you grant a financial hardship petition to one, you generally are going to need to grant them all. So, it's always his counsel that we not grant financial hardships exemptions because we are opening pandora's box. Executive Director Ganem added that another lesson learned, next year we will have some indications on what is an appropriate petition which will likely cause the number of petitions to go down since 43% of them were for financial hardships. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1709 hours Commissioner Baruso reported that the Board will convene into Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i). To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency, matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in adverse legal or financial consequences to the agency.

Joining the Board in Executive Session will be Executive Director Ganem, Executive Secretary Perry and Legal Counsel. Action may or may not be taken after Executive Session. At this time we will recess until 1809 hours.

At 1809 hours Executive Session was extended until 1830 hours.

At 1830 hours the Special Meeting reconvened. Commissioner Baruso announced that we are out of Executive Session with no further business we are adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 1830 hours.

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BOARD SECRETARY

SOUTH KING FIRE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER