SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Station 68
June 30, 2015

Commissioner Gates called the meeting to order at 1800 hours with Commissioners Thompson, Fossos and Rickert present. Commissioner Freitas is not at the meeting. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Hershey.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Rickert was hoping that there would be more public in attendance at today's meeting. Everything that we asked for in the Bond we needed, we may need to look at different options.

Commissioner Thompson noted that he is looking forward to discussion today; this is the future of South King Fire & Rescue.

Commissioner Freitas arrived at 1803 hours.

Commissioner Fossos stated that our department has performed admirably, with staff mobilizing with a Zone 3 response to assist our brothers and sisters in Wenatchee. He is very impressed how the staff has handled and performed at the fires, this is a perfect example why we needed the $53.7 million Bond. Life and safety of citizens are very important, and a prime example was the fully engulfed house fire that started to catch the neighbor's house on fire. If you don't have manpower and equipment everyone is at risk. We are here to make some major decisions that will affect the future of our department.

Commissioner Freitas apologized for being late, schedules are what they are.

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roger Flygare noted that he is running for election and hoping to join the Board of Commissioners. He has been talking to people in neighborhoods and everyone seems to appreciate the job that our firefighters do. He received a few comments about some confusion on their being 2 Prop 1's on the ballot, there were also some concerns about the dry weather cycle that we are in and the fireworks with July 4th, right around the corner, what is fire department going to do. In fact he received, a phone call on what citizens can do on the 4th of July, from Chief Church, thank you for the call this is great.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF RELATIVE TO POTENTIAL BOND ISSUE

Chief Church noted that tonight's meeting is to see what the Board wants us to do. We have contacted a number of individuals in the community gathering input on why the Bond failed. We received a lot of input, we are doing an incredible job, and they want to hear more specifics of the Bond, concerned with 2 Prop 1s on the same ballot and a compressed time line to get the message out. Recommendations were to get right back on the ballot again, do community outreach, reduce the amount of the Bond, making it easier for citizens since we are still kind of coming out of the recession.

The Chief reported that we are excited to see what the Board recommends. His Admin team will be presenting some options for the Board to discuss and make some decisions; we will continue to gather data from the election to bring back to the Board as applicable. In listening to what some of our citizens have said about it being too much money, we are looking at a 2-phased project. The critical things will be taken care of in phase 1 and the other things that we need, will be taken care of in phase 2.

The Options:

OPTION #1: The $53.7 Million-Repeat our April Election Option:

- Touches every station
- Above Ground Fuel Tanks
- Engines
- Aid Cars
- Builds new Station 60
- Paving on 320th at Campus property
- Build new fleet and facilities building on 320th property
- Upgrade Station 68

Discussion Point:

- We could put the same Bond on the ballot in November of "15, or in 2016, as our needs have not changed. Or,
- We could scale down the Bond and possibly gain more support with a phased approach.

OPTION #2: A Phased Approach Over a Number of Years

Phase #1 - $35-39 Million in November of '15, or in 2016

- Seismic upgrades at each station
- Engines
- Aid Cars
- Staff Vehicles that are critical and at end of life
- Above ground fuel storage tanks
- IT Needs

Basically this would take care of all of the critical needs of the department.

Phase #2 – A number of years down the road

- Build new station 60
- Build new fleet shop

We are trying to secure a grant for a new fire boat.

The Board will also need to consider when they want to put the bond on the ballot with either Option #1 or #2.

Commissioner Rickert added that he also talked with some citizens and there seems to be some confusion on the amount. He recommends a phased approach, we can live without station 60 and a fire boat right now, but we will definitely need them in the future. He is a long range planner and he believes the two phased plan will definitely work for our citizens and the department; it makes it more affordable for our citizens.

Commissioner Fossos added that it is of paramount importance that we cannot ignore the earthquake potential; it is going to happen. We have to take the lead and move forward with seismic upgrades at our stations, and the fire boat is an essential element of our district. We have to provide funding for these things.

B/C Chaney added that all of our stations need some help, they are old and are showing their age, they need to be brought up to today's standards. Stations 61, 65 and 66 were built for volunteers, not career staff, and they have been remodeled several times to accommodate our current staffing needs. When our stations collapse we won't be able to respond to calls.

D/C Pennington noted that our goal is that our staff goes home in the same shape (safe) just like they arrive to work; we have to support our people so they can do their job helping our citizens.

Commissioner Rickert added that the safety of our citizens and communities in keeping our stations up to date and safe is one of the most important things that we need to do. We can't afford not to do seismic upgrades and firefighter safety features, biohazard and de-con.

A/C Plumlee added that when we have a major earthquake, we will probably have a great number of citizens come to the fire stations seeking help, assistance and shelter.

Commissioner Gates noted that he supports going back to the voters in November and he likes the idea of the phased approach, he prefers a $39 million bond however he would be okay if the rest of the Board supports a bond of $34-35 Million and not doing any work at the property on 320th.

Commissioner Thompson added that our facilities are seismically unsafe; we know an earthquake is going to happen, we just don't know when and we know that citizens will go to stations looking for help. Most of the citizens that he has talked to are in favor of rerunning the bond for $53.7 million, they were uninformed voters. Our class 2 insurance rating is very important and if we can't maintain our equipment and facilities, we are in jeopardy of receiving a higher insurance rating, which will affect our citizens and businesses. As for Station 60, we are already 4 years behind the curve, per the City of Federal Way's Comprehensive Plan, there are a number of large projects that are planned to be built and some are already completed, this will definitely have an impact on stations 61 and 63. If station 60 isn't built, there is nowhere for staff to go while we are doing the upgrades and the other stations. Commissioner Thompson supports going back out for a $53.7 Bond. There seems to be a lot of confusion with 2 - Prop 1's and they thought the bond would be a simple majority.

There was some discussion why we would reduce the amount of the Bond, if we needed everything that was in the $53.7 million Bond. Commissioner Rickert added we all agree that we needed everything that we asked for in the April Bond. We need Station 60 in the future, fire boat in the future and the property on 320th training ground in the future.

Commissioner Gates noted that he wasn't on the board when the capital replacement schedule was set up, but it probably wasn't set up to pay for seismic upgrades. Retired Chief Dave Crossen added that the replacement schedule was set up for apparatus only, not station remodels and upgrades. All of the facility needs and upgrades to code would be considered a bond issue; this was followed by a lot of discussion on seismic issues and the Board's responsibility for the stations to be safe for our personnel so we can respond to calls when our citizens need us.

Commissioner Fossos made a Motion to approve putting a $39 million bond proposal on the November 2015 ballot; Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gates. Chief Church added that if directed to come up with resolution for a $39 Million Bond Issue, it would not include station 60, any upgrades to the 320th property and no fire boat. Commissioner Rickert added that we need to find alternative funding for the fire boat.

After a lot of discussion on the Bond amongst the Commissioners and a few citizens, the Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Freitas voting in opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 1942 hours.

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CHAIR/COMMISSIONER VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

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BOARD SECRETARY