SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Budget Workshop – Public Hearing
Station 68
October 13, 2015

Commissioner Gates called the meeting to order at 0900 hours with Commissioners Thompson, Fossos and Freitas present, Commissioner Rickert was not at the meeting. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

Commissioner Gates welcomed everyone to the meeting, adding that this is a Special Meeting/Pubic Hearing in regards to the 2016 draft budget.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Fossos.

Commissioner Fossos asked for a moment of silence in honoring the two (2) firefighters that were killed in Kansas City.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Freitas had no comments; however he would like to reserve the right to ask questions during the presentation.

Commissioner Thompson had no comments.

Commissioner Fossos stated that if you look at freeways you will see how busy our guys can be with all of the motor vehicle accidents; it is a dangerous part of our job.

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COMMISSIONER BUDGET WORKSHOP/PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Gates noted that Chief Church will present the budget division by division and he asked the Commissioners to hold their questions until Chief Church has finished that division budget and the public will have the option of making public comments at the end of the meeting.

Chief Church thanked the Admin Team and the Budget Finance & Audit Committee for their input on the 2016 draft budget. It is nice to see an increase in Assessed Values this year; he added that he will be asking the Board to approve the budget at the November Regular Board Meeting.

Chief Church began reviewing the draft 2016 budget adding that he is pleased, with the increase in AV's we are able maintain all positions funded through a combination of the M&O Levy and the SAFER Grant. The SAFER Grant expires the middle of 2016. This is the third straight year with a balanced budget. This budget includes a 0.5% COLA increase for all staff, Valley Com had a large increase, there was a significant increase in L & I costs, and we will be adding one (1) new position, Administrative Assistant for Fleet & Facilities, this position will be responsible for maintaining and updating all data, maintenance records, vendor coordination and other tasks as assigned. This budget also funds a two (2) year program of staffing a Community Medical Technician (CMT) unit in

partnership with Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA). This unit will handle the low acuity medical incidents in both South King and VRFA service areas, with funding allocated through King County EMS to support the unit. The expense side of the budget reflects a 3.93% increase in total operating costs. The Budget Finance & Audit Committee met on October 1st and reviewed the budget.

With the passage of the Bond, a few of the Capital purchases could fall under the Bond, so there may be just a few changes once we receive the results of the Bond.

- Commissioner's line increased 7.9%, there is a desire from a few Board members to rejoin WFCA this will be a Board decision.
- Audit line item remained unchanged.
- General line items have increased 8.6%, due to large increases in postage, dues and memberships and printing and binding.
- Administration line items have increased 47.6%, a few employees were moved from Prevention to Administration and we will be hiring a new Administrative Assistant for Fleet/Facilities.
- Operations has seen an increase of 1.9% due to an increase in outside training/travel, each shift will receive the same amount and the B/C will have to keep track of how much their shift has spent.
- EMS budget has increased 299.4% due to the new Community Medical Technician, while looking at the revenue side of the budget; you will notice a significant increase in the KCEMS Basic Life/CMT Funds reimbursing the District for this position for two (2) years.
- Rescue Team budget has decreased 2.7%.
- Marine Team budget has decreased 5.7%.
- Haz-Mat Team budget has decreased by 9.9%.
- Health & Safety budget has increased 10.4% due to the cost of vaccines and the purchase of a treadmill.
- Prevention/Investigation budget has decreased by 14.1% due to some staff being transferred to the Administration budget line.
- Public Education budget has increased by 6.4% this will allow us to hire some firefighters back on overtime for community events and some additional funds for Outside Training/Travel which will allow Captain Bellinghausen to get certified to NFPA 1035 standards.
- Training budget has increased by 5.8%
- Facilities budget has increased 4.3%.
- Fleet budget has increased by 0.9%.
- Information Technologies budget has increased 1.4%.
- Employee Health Benefits budget has seen a 0% change in the budget.

At 1005 hours the meeting recessed for a 10 minute break.

At 1015 the meeting reconvened.

Chief Church passed out a sheet that compared our staffing levels to our call volume for 2006-year to date 2015. We have seen a 13% increase in calls from 2006-2015 and 4 additional employees.

Commissioner Freitas inquired if we are making any strides in Accreditation, Chief Church noted that at this time, we will be working with the Washington Survey & Rating Bureau, which dictates our Insurance Rating, we will not be doing accreditation and we will hold ourselves to the bench mark established by the WSRB. There is a direct correlation between the WSRB rating and our citizens relative to their insurance costs.

Commissioner Thompson asked how we our staffing levels compared to neighboring departments. Chief Church noted that we looked at that a few years ago and we are a bargain per capita at $1.79 per $1000.

Commissioner Fossos noted that the IAFF recommends four person staffing on apparatus and he fully supports it, and he will continue to push for that.

Commissioner Thompson thanked Chief Church, the Administrative team and everyone for hard work in scrutinizing your budget requests while staying focused on the mission, but still providing the necessary supplies and equipment to get the job done.

Public Comments

Jerry Galland inquired is this the first time that you are aware that the CMT program has been done in King County, Chief Church replied no, Jerry Galland asked if this is the first time for the partnership between SKFR and VRFA, do we have a good model to work off of, who else has it and is it successful. Chief Church replied, yes first partnership between SKFR and VRFA, yes we have a good model to use, Kent Fire currently has it and it has been successful.

Commissioner Freitas added that this is the model that the State is actively looking at as a way to release EMS Trauma calls to the hospital or responders. Commissioner Fossos very quickly stated, not trauma calls. Commissioner Freitas changed it to the EMS Trauma Council is actively looking at it; this is not for trauma calls.

Meeting adjourned at 1030 hours.

_____ _____

CHAIR/COMMISSIONER VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

_____ _____

COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER

_____

COMMISSIONER

_____

BOARD SECRETARY