



KING COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO.16

7220 NE 181st Street
KENMORE, WA 98028

BUSINESS: 425-354-1780 FAX: 425-354-1781

MINUTES

February 27, 2024

SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS at Northshore Fire Department's Headquarters Station 51 and Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. OPEN SPECIAL NORTHSHORE MEETING

1.1 Roll Call

Chair Lisa Wollum called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Persons in attendance were Commissioners Eric Adman, Rick Webster, and Lisa Wollum. Also present was Chief Matt Cowan, Legal Counsel Matt Paxton, Board Secretary Amy Oakley, and 6 members of the public. Commissioner Josh Pratt joined the meeting at 5:15PM. Commissioner Tyler Byers was absent.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

2.1 The Board heard public comments from David Maehren.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Adman moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Webster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0.

IV. BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Discussion of District Finances

- Chief Cowan presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding options for the fire benefit charge, levy lid lift, merger, and region fire authority (RFA).
- The Board asked questions of Chief Cowan related to the materials presented.
- The Board discussed the timeline and process for preparing options for the August 2024 special election ballot.

V. UPCOMING BOARD AGENDAS

5.1 Setting of Future Meeting Agenda(s)

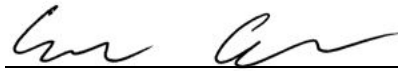
The next meeting on March 5, 2024 meeting will include the standard agenda items as well as update from the subcommittee on Station 54 and subcommittee on outbuildings at Station 51, update on tax relief for Northshore citizens related to the Fire Benefit Charge, presentation on the new Rescue apparatus and TRT staffing, planning 2024 Commissioner Training, continued discussion of district strategic options for the August 2024 special election. This meeting will be hybrid, on Zoom and in-person at Station 51.

ADJOURNMENT

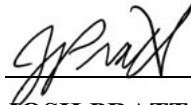
The meeting adjourned at 5:59PM.

Attachments: Agenda, Public Notice, Chief Cowan PowerPoint presentation.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



ERIC ADMAN, Member



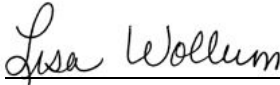
JOSH PRATT, Member



TYLER BYERS, Member

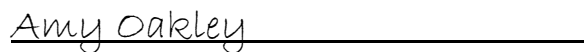


RICK WEBSTER, Member



LISA WOLLUM, Member

ATTEST



Amy Oakley, Secretary

King County Fire Protection District No. 16

Adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners on March 5, 2024.



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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

DATED February 9, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of King County Fire Protection District No. 16, will be held via Zoom, and in-person at: Station #51, 7220 NE 181st Street, Kenmore, WA 98028, Tuesday the 27th day of February 2024, at 5:00PM. Meeting agenda posted separately.



Northshore Fire Department Board of Commissioners

Headquarters Station 7220 NE 181st Street, Kenmore, WA

Northshore Fire Department Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

5:00PM

Meeting held virtually, via Zoom, and in-person at: Station #51, 7220 NE 181st Street, Kenmore, WA 98028

To provide public comment, please see instructions at the end of the agenda.

To attend this meeting live, click the link below and enter the ID & Password provided.

A recording of this meeting will also be posted in AV Capture.

Join Zoom Meeting Online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85044713997?pwd=dW1uWDFpNldpPZ1dSSU1ZYy9LSXVQQT09>

Call in to Zoom Meeting at: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 850 4471 3997

Passcode: 743608

I. Open Special Northshore Board Meeting

1.1 Roll Call

II. Public Comment

2.1 Public Comment

III. Approval of Agenda

3.1 Approval of the Meeting Agenda

IV. Board Discussion and Possible Action Items

4.1 Discussion of District Finances

V. Upcoming Board Agendas

5.1 Setting of Future Meeting Agenda(s)

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 at 5:00 PM

Public Comment Procedures for Virtual Meetings:



Individuals wishing to comment may comment by appearing at the virtual meeting and “raising their hand” or the equivalent. The chair shall recognize those persons and provide them the opportunity to comment. Three minutes are allowed for comment.

If you wish to provide written public comment, you may do so by submitting a written statement to boardsecretary@northshorefire.com. Any comments received up to one hour before the posted meeting time, will be read during the public comment period.

To ensure your written comments are received and read at the proper meeting, your email must include:

- Date & Time of the meeting your comments are intended for
- Your name
- Whether or not you live in the city limits of Lake Forest Park or Kenmore
- Agenda Item and/or subject your comments refer to

Emails without this information may not be read at the meeting. And, in accordance with normal procedure, messages of an overly repetitive or inappropriate (vulgarity) nature may be declined to be read at the discretion of the meeting Chair.

Please check the District’s [AV Capture](#) for the most up-to-date information about individual meetings.

Questions? Email Board Secretary Amy Oakley at boardsecretary@northshorefire.com



Northshore Fire Department
Strategic Planning Discussion
2024



Why are we here?

Situation

- The fire property tax has been limited to about a 1% increase since 2005.
 - In 2013 the levy rate was at \$1.00, but now has dropped to the current rate of \$.50.
- This has forced the fire benefit charge (FBC) to take an ever increasing share of the revenue, and the result is we are now pushing up against the 60% cap.
 - Also note that the FBC ends next year and will need to potentially be re-authorized.
- This has been recognized for a long time with both Fire Commissioners and administrative staff asking for a levy lid lift over the past decade.
- If we don't do anything we will likely need to pull from reserves next year to meet financial obligations.

Options

- If we do not pursue a regionalization effort then:
 - Put a property tax levy rate increase ballot measure to voters in August of 2024.
 - Put a FBC re-authorization ballot measure to voters in April of 2025.
- We can pursue regionalization (merger or regional fire authority (RFA)) with Shoreline Fire Department (SFD).
 - This would allow for the adoption of SFD's FBC, which doesn't end until 2031.
 - Efficiencies of combining resources would remove the immediate pressure on the combined Department's new levy rate.
- If we were to pursue a regionalization effort then:
 - Put a merger or RFA ballot measure for voters in August of 2024.

History

- A full merger of NFD/SFD has been discussed for many decades.
- In 2014 the Fire Chiefs and Union Presidents met and agreed to put together a merger.
- However, before this could happen a RFA proposal including NFD, BFD, Sno10, and WFR was started. SFD was not included and it failed to get support after about 2 ½ years.
- In 2018 NFD and SFD again started talking merger, which gained traction and was going to be formally introduced. WFR requested to be included, which was approved.
- Instead, in 2019 a three-way merger was discussed, but then NFD/WFR started discussions on a two-way merger without SFD.
- In 2021 the merger of NFD/WFR was turned down by voters.
- In 2022 a contract for full services between NFD and SFD was approved.

PRO/CON

Status Quo, remain in Current Form

Advantages

- Keeps funding control at local level.
- Keeps governance at local level.

Disadvantages

- While more financially and logistically efficient than stand alone, still not as efficient as other options where money and time could be saved.
- Will need to run back to back ballot measures for continued funding (but this is a short-term impact).
- May need to consider changes next year anyway, depending on what happens in Bothell.
- Potential voter fatigue.

PRO/CON

Merger of NFD into SFD

Advantages

- Complete financial, operational, and logistical efficiency.
- Diversification of revenues and adoption of SFD FBC.
- Increased involvement of NFD Commissioners in governance of organization.
- Simple majority vote.

Disadvantages

- Depending on total financial package, could increase overall equivalent levy rate for LFP/Kenmore (but this would likely be a minor increase of about \$.02 levy rate or even none at all, depending on assumptions).
- LFP/Kenmore residents would not get to vote on the merger.
- NFD would no longer exist, but neither would SFD as we would consider a new name for the Department.
- Initially NFD Commissioners would populate the governance board, but through attrition we would reduce down to 5, or 7 with a vote.

PRO/CON

NFD and SFD Become a RFA

Advantages

- Complete financial, operational, and logistical efficiency.
- Diversification of revenues and adoption of SFD FBC.
- Complete involvement of NFD Commissioners in governance of organization and Commissioners could represent LFP/Kenmore specifically.
- Would allow for others to join into the RFA and FBC with a simple majority vote.
- All voters would vote.

Disadvantages

- More complicated than a merger.
- Would initially require a super majority vote.
- Depending on total financial package, could increase overall equivalent levy rate for LFP/Kenmore (but this would likely be a minor increase of about \$.02 levy rate or even none at all, depending on assumptions).
- NFD would no longer exist, but neither would SFD as we would consider a new name for the Department.

The background features a vertical color gradient from dark blue at the top to bright red at the bottom. A wavy, textured pattern, resembling liquid or fabric, is overlaid on the gradient, with peaks and valleys that catch the light, creating a shimmering effect.

Questions?