



KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT # 7
MINUTES OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 19, 2023 18:00

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 18:00 hours at station 29, 400 Mountain View Road, Ellensburg, on April 19, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by KVFR Commissioner Chair Clerf. Commissioner Dickinson opened the meeting for KCFD7.

PRESENT: Commissioner Chair Bill Dickinson, Commissioner Vice Chair Robert Cernick, Commissioner Justin Zipperer, Chief Sinclair, Deputy Chief Hutsell, Finance Admin/District Secretary Micallef were all present. For KVFR present was: Commissioner Chair Pat Clerf, Neal Houser, Neil O’Neil, Ross Ogan, Jerry Pettit and District Secretary Sydney McBride. Around 28 members of the public were in person and around 29 people had logged on via Zoom.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
 - Action Item: *Motion to approve by Neal Houser and seconded by Neil O’Neil.*
 - All Boards voted 3-0 and 5-0 to approve the agenda.*
3. Discussion on regionalization efforts between Kittitas County Fire District 2 and Kittitas County Fire District 7
 - a. ESCI’s Patrick McIntosh introduced the members of ESCI and then went through a detailed PowerPoint of their conclusion from the study of both districts. Discussed the population growth, need for apparatus updates in both Districts, the different cultures at each district and the operational and organizational benefits of merging the two districts in some way. They discussed the 3 options before the districts; status quo, contractual consolidation, and RFA. They went over each options then under their recommendation they said contractual consolidation would work best. They presented a organizational chart that would be suggested but can be altered any way that would work best for the Districts.
4. Public Comment; there were many questions from members of the audience and online:
 - a. Why not merge with Upper County Districts first? They have been approached and all have stated they are not interested.
 - b. Do you have pro-form data about what financially this will look like? No, just the evaluation of where the districts are currently and what combining could eliminate in duplicity.
 - c. A KVFR resident recently had a 20 minute response time for a call, how will this help that? Without knowing the exact call and circumstances can’t comment on that call, likely multiple calls happening at the same time.
 - d. Without a legal document could you still train together? Yes that would be Status Quo, doesn’t really improve services.
 - e. With Districts 31 miles apart how would Battalion Chiefs respond? With shift supervision added they would be able to handle the calls until the BC’s arrive.



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- f. Was the WSRB ratings factored into ESCI's recommendation? Yes, GIS was used to evaluate response times, and a station location study would be needed in the future to best place stations where the most population is.
- g. Was the HD2 Board asked for their input? No, they were not but they can be asked in the future, ESCI will reach out to them.
- h. How do the labor unions from each District feel about this? Chief Sinclair answered, but a few members of the union in the audience stated they are open to it but need more information.
- i. How can the Districts merge with different response policies? Those policies will need to be reevaluated to align with each District and that can be done at the time that the contract is negotiated.
- j. How much did this report cost? Around \$60,000 split between Districts
- k. This plan allows for a two person engine response, that's not ideal? Financially that is what can be afforded. Over time hopefully more can be added.
- l. I don't see the Day Captain at 73? What happens to him? Nobody would lose their jobs, some would be reclassified and adjusted but there are no plans to take anybody's positions from them.
- m. Next Steps: Boards will go back to their regular meetings and have conversations and make a decision if they want to move forward with consolidation or not. If yes then establish a senior planning committee that would have members from payroll/finance, labor, volunteer, Deputy Chiefs and Chief. Then move to Ad Hoc working groups to work out details. This will take time to put together.
- n. This entire report and presentation will be available on both Districts websites.

5. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 19:33.

APPROVED

Kittitas County Fire District No. 7,
Kittitas County Washington

By: Bill Dickinson
Bill Dickinson, Commissioner Chair

By: _____
Robert Cernick, Commissioner Vice Chair

By: Justin Zipperer
Justin Zipperer, Commissioner



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ATTEST:


Eryn A Micallef, District Secretary