



Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
Stillaguamish Valley Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee

Snohomish County Fire Districts 19, 21, and 22

May 31, 2016 at 1900hrs
Fire Station 49, 12131 228th Street NE Arlington WA 98223

Attorney Brian Snure opened the meeting at 1900 hours.

Call to Order from each Fire District represented:

- A. Snohomish County FPD No. 19/Silvana- Chairperson Kevin Buhr called meeting to order.
- B. Snohomish County FPD No. 21/Arlington Rural – Chairperson Jim Strago called the meeting to order.
- C. Snohomish County FPD No. 22/Getchell – Chairperson Paul Taylor called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was completed.

Introductions:

Attorney Brian Snure introduced himself and his history and a facilitator of Fire Authority Planning Committee meetings. He is here to answer any questions the Commissioners may have regarding the formation of a Fire Authority.

All three fire districts being represented introduced themselves as Board of Commissioners and staff.

The following Fire Commissioners and Staff were in attendance:

- **Fire District 19:** Kevin Buhr, Ray Brown, Steve Geiger, and Keith Strotz
- **Fire District 21:** Jim Strago, Dan Britton, Eric Nordstrom, Branden Bates, and Wendy Britton.
- **Fire District 22:** Paul Taylor, Chris Greig, Tim Bailey, Travis Hots, Ron Selia, Jeremy Stocker, and Deidre Korte.

The Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee will include all nine Fire Commissioners. They are Buhr, Brown, Geiger, Strago, Britton, Nordstrom, Taylor, Bailey and Greig. All of which are in attendance for the first meeting.





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New Business:

RCW 52.26: Regional Fire Authorities (Appendix Item “D”): Attorney Snure read the RCW and briefly explained the purpose of the statement. Snure stated that the formation of an RFA is simple and if approved by the voters it would become a new municipal corporation. A Fire Authority is governed under Title 52. The Regional Fire Authority plan is a charter that establishes the rules unique to the particular Fire Authority.

*The Stillaguamish Valley Regional Fire Authority Draft Plan has been provided to each of the Planning Committee Members/Commissioners.

Stillaguamish Valley Regional Fire Authority DRAFT Plan: Attorney Snure explains the proposed plan for the Stillaguamish Valley Regional Fire Authority Draft Plan. He gives an explanation to each section and the meaning of them. There is discussion of how boundaries are formed, levies, a simple majority vote, funding and governance. He states that the EMS levy can be decided upon at a later date. The governance and representation from each district will need to be decided upon. The number of commissioners as well and the governing board structure. The exact governance will need to be specific by the time of the vote. The organizational structure, administration, management and personnel are all stated in the draft plan.

Next Steps: After the proposed plan was explained by Snure, a general discussion began with Kevin Buhr asking the attorney what the next steps are and what should the Planning Committee be thinking about. Snure responded that the first step is to agree on funding and governance. The question to ask is: Is this what your district wants to be a part of? If so, the required process will need to be complete by August 4, 2016. The committee will need to figure out exactly what they want to see in the plan. The second step will be to seek public input. The key is to educate the citizens within the boundaries of the RFA. The plan will need to be advertised before a joint resolution can be passed. Once public input is received the third step is to put the RFA on the ballot. The fourth step is the election. The last step if passed is the formation of the Regional Fire Authority.

Snure stressed the importance of educating the public on the RFA plan approved by the Planning Committee.

The committee agrees the next meeting should focus on the governance and financial aspects.





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Call on the Board Members:

- Bailey asks if a survey is needed for the boundaries. Snure replies that the current boundaries are defined by the district.
- Greig asks which levy rate takes over. Snure says the rate is determined by the rate defined in the plan unless it is a merger then the rates are blended.
- Geiger asks what is the level of the financial review. Snure replies whatever is acceptable to the board, there are no requirements.
- Nordstrom asks what happens to the contractual agreements. Snure said that it depends and most are assignable to the RFA. He recommends that all individual contracts be reviewed.

The Planning Committee agrees to move forward and plan for a second meeting on Monday June 13, 2016 7p.m. at Station 49, 12131 228th Street NE Arlington, WA 98223.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:39pm.

