



Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
Stillaguamish Valley Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee

Snohomish County Fire Districts 19, 21, and 22

July 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Fire Station 49, 12131 228th Street NE Arlington, WA 98223

Facilitator Jim Rankin opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with introductions and an announcement regarding public input meetings that will be held in the near future to provide opportunities for public input prior to the adoption of a final plan.

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.

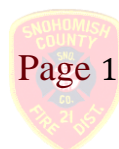
Pledge of Allegiance was completed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Jim Rankin requested approval of the June 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Greig made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Britton seconded and the motion was passed.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Geiger made a motion to approve the agenda, Commissioner Geiger seconded and the motion was passed.

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, Jeremy Stocker, and Deidre Korte.





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Campaign Write-up of Facts:

Informational handout provided for Commissioners review and approval prior to distribution. Unanimous decision made to utilize the handout and proceed with distribution accordingly.

Volunteer Firefighter Survey:

Chief Hots provided historical overview of diminishing volunteerism and increased training requirements. Statistics show that most volunteers are now paid part-time by the hour, per diem, or stipend.

Discussion regarding the need for volunteers to obtain an EMT certification to support the high volume of medical calls we respond to and as required by WA State training standards.

Commissioner Buhr advised that during the last three state wide fire meetings, this subject has been a main topic of discussion with similar data reflecting the decreasing number of volunteers and increase in regulatory requirements to ensure safety and compliance; making it difficult to recruit and keep volunteers.

Commissioner Bailey provided historical overview of volunteerism and additional decline due to meeting and maintaining required NFPA codes and standards.

Discussion regarding legal requirements and most importantly safety for all.

2018 Draft Budget:

Review and discussion of 2016 levy rates. Further discussion regarding District 21's levy rate falling dangerously low as the third lowest in county at \$1.06; the county average is \$1.75. Review and discussion of proposed tax increase.

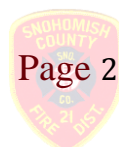
Hypothetical discussions regarding functioning as an RFA July 1, 2017 if approved by voters. Decision made to form a Budget subcommittee with Commissioners and staff; Jim Rankin and Chief Hots will coordinate.

Comparable Wage and Benefit Package:

Wage and benefit survey data provide to Commissioners for review and consideration.

Next Planning Committee Meeting Topics:

- Discussion: Chapter 3.4: Governance & Representation, proposed Governance Board and Governance Plan during transition phase.
- Consider public input meeting dates.
- Budget subcommittee updates.
- Discussion on Other Sections (As Needed).





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Final Comments/Good of the Order:

Jim Rankin thanked community members for their input and clarified that no final decision has been made by the planning committee. He stated that the planning committee is in the process of gathering information and will obtain community input in the near future.

Commissioner Strago recommended forming a subcommittee to evaluate and discuss governance. Decision made to form said committee; Commissioner Bailey, Buhr and Nordstrom will preside.

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Friday September 30, 2016 at Station 94, 2720 212th Street NW Stanwood, WA 98292.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Recorder: Wendy Britton, District Secretary

