

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
Special Council and Klickitat County Regional Fire Authority
Planning Committee Meeting #1 – Wednesday, April 26, 2023
In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Ben Giant
Jason Hartmann
Jim Ransier

Fire District 3 Commissioners:

Thomas Montag
Robert Connor
Charles Virts

City Staff Present:

Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief | Code Enforcement
Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer
Troy Rayburn, City Administrator
Troy Rosenburg, Deputy Clerk | Utility Clerk

Fire District 3 Staff Present:

Rosalind Plumb, FD3 Secretary
Wes Long, Fire Chief

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council Member Jason Hartmann called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m. There were approximately 4 members of the public in attendance in person and via teleconference.

II. Introduction

West Klickitat Regional Fire
City of White Salmon Council

III. Business Item

A. West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority Plan

- The Joint Council held a meeting to review the draft Regional Fire Authority plan as required by RCW 5226. They discussed the plan's elements and proposal to move forward with the plan to be placed on the ballot for adoption.
- The council members and commissioners talked about the review of a document related to the formation of a Regional Fire Authority. They considered different methods of reviewing the document and addressed concerns raised by volunteers, while also discussing various sections and making minor revisions.
- The council members commented on the governance and organizational structure of the regional fire authority. They discussed the funding and finance of the authority, including the development of governing board policies regarding finance and reserve fund specifications.
- The council members discussed the funding and finance of a regional fire district, including the four elements of financial policy: operations, apparatus replacement fund, equipment replacement fund, and facility component replacement fund. They debated whether to explicitly state these categories in the plan or leave it open-ended for additional categories in the future.

- The council members conversed about the details of the proposed levy rate to fund the Regional Fire Authority (RFA) and the allocation of funds and the transfer of assets. They also discussed the ownership of the fire station building and the possibility of the city retaining ownership until the council and public works to find other quarters. Suggestions for a lease agreement with a sunset clause and other advocating for the transfer of all assets to the RFA. They also discussed the need for a timeline for the transfer and the potential displacement of public works. The discussion of the transfer of ownership of assets from the city to the RFA, including the mixed-use building and its contents. They agreed to rewrite section 6 item F7 to address concerns about public works having a home and to ensure that all aspects of Fire District 3 and the fire department are transferred to the RFA.
- The committee members discussed the structure of the leadership and reiterated their desire to honor their commitment to volunteers for a safe environment. The West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority was bound to a master and deployment plan within the first year.
- The council members spoke on the upcoming budget and public hearing, with concerns about the cost and justification specifically the uncertainty of a proposed budget to refer concerned citizens to for confirmation.
- The council members discussed the missing link in their proposal and suggested addressing personnel. They also planned to discuss outreach and gather feedback from volunteer firefighters in the next meeting.

IV. Public Comment

David Swann- White Salmon Volunteer Firefighter

David Swann brought to light information on the building being built with funds from multiple departments not just the Fire Department, specifically the Water Fund. David addressed issues and concerns that would create problems the volunteer firefighters would like to see addressed before moving forward.

Carl Swanson – White Salmon Volunteer Firefighter

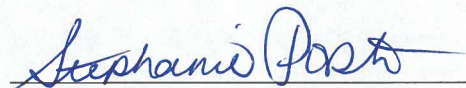
Carl Swanson addressed his concerns on misrepresentation of data in the Fire Task Force Report that claimed EMT and Fire Fighter first responders' data including 2020 when volunteers were not allowed to respond due to COVID. Carl commented on the resources and the needs that are necessary to provide the best coverage for the community.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06p.m.



Marla Keethler, Mayor



Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer