

**City of Bellingham – Fire District 8 Regional Fire
Authority Planning Committee
Meeting 4**

Date: Monday September 18, 2017

Time: 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Location: Bellingham City Hall - Mayor's Boardroom

Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes August 9, 2017 meeting.
2. Issue Paper #1 - Map of RFA - Capt. Pethick (5 min.)
3. Issue Paper #2 - RFA Start Date - Capt. Pethick (15 mins)
4. Issue Paper #3 - Level of Service - Chief Hewett (15 mins)
5. Issue Paper #5 - Primary Services - Capt. Kays (30 mins)
6. Issue Paper #4 - Internal/Support Services - Brian Heinrich (30 mins)
7. Issue Paper #10 - Governance - Chief Hewett (10 mins)
8. Next Agenda/Date (10 min.)
9. Closing Comments/Adjourn

The Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee meeting was called to order by Bellingham City Councilmember Terry Bornemann at 3:01 P.M. The meeting was held in the Mayor's Boardroom at Bellingham City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham.

Present: Bill Hewett, Assistant Fire Chief
Kelli Linville, Mayor
Rob Neher, Fire District 8 Commissioner
Monea Kerr, Mayor's Office
Tim Kays, Fire Captain
Rick Sepler, COB Planning and Community Development Director
Brian Heinrich, COB Deputy Administrator
Terry Bornemann, Bellingham City Council
Michael Lilliquist, Bellingham City Council
Roger Buswell, Fire District 8 Commissioner
Dave Pethick, Fire Captain, IAFF L106 VP
Kristi Clift, FD Admin Services Manager
Andy Asbjornsen, COB Accounting Manager
Todd Lagestee, Citizen

Brian Henshaw, COB Finance Director
Ron Morehouse, Citizen
Bill Newbold, COB Fire Chief
Rob Glorioso, Local 106 president

1. Approval of Minutes August 9, 2017 meeting.

The minutes from the August 9, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Issue Paper #1 - Map of RFA - Capt. Pethick (5 min.)

Captain Dave Pethick presented Issue Paper #1, which detailed proposed RFA jurisdictional boundaries via the attached map. Capt. Pethick explained that issue papers are how the planning committee establishes functions of the RFA, such as boundaries.

Summary/Description of issue:

Identifying the proposed RFA jurisdictional boundaries.

Options:

1. Jurisdictional boundaries of the RFA shall be the legal boundaries of the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire District 8, "...whose boundaries are coextensive with two or more adjacent fire protection jurisdictions..." The boundaries are depicted on the map attached.
2. Adopt different jurisdictional boundaries for the RFA.

Staff Recommendations and Rationale:

Staff recommends adopting the map depicting jurisdictional boundaries that are the total combined and existing legal boundaries of the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire District 8. This addresses the goals of the parties to provide unified fire and emergency services within the area and fits the legal requirements contained within RCW 52.26.

The planning committee discussed the two options:

- Captain Pethick said there is a gap in the river delta and also Portage Island. There is no need to respond there but the Fire Department does sometimes.
- Mayor Kelli asked who serves the gap and out in Sandy Point.
- Caption Pethick said that Fire District 7 serves the gap and comes down from the north. West of the proposed RFA is Sandy Point Fire District 17.
- Chief Hewett said that it is a D.N.R., area, which is not adopted into anyone's fire district. If there were calls, the Fire Department would go there even though there is no responsibility to serve there.
- Mayor Kelli asked: Is it confusing to not have a responsibility to serve?
- Captain Hewett said before they merged with District 13, District 8 would provide

service there. There are no voters out there to petition an annex to the district.

- Councilmember Lilliquist said that the planning committee's job is to find the route to the best option and this map does that.

The planning committee unanimously voted to pass the staff recommendation to adopt the map.

3. Issue Paper #2 - RFA Start Date - Capt. Pethick (15 mins)

Captain Pethick presented Issue Paper #2, which detailed potential RFA start dates and Levy start dates.

Summary/Description of issue:

The Planning Committee needs to determine the service start date (formation date) of the proposed RFA. RCW 52.26.070 states "the authority is formed on the effective date as set in the plan or the next January 1st or July 1st, whichever occurs first." This has implications not just for service delivery, but also when the RFA funding can begin. The date should also allow for meaningful public input, time to allow the vote to be certified and challenged, and appropriate time to allow collection of revenue.

Options:

Start Service Date/Formation Date:

1. October 1, 2018 (August 2018 ballot).
2. January 1, 2019 (either August or November 2018 ballot).

Proposed Levy Collection Start Date:

1. January 1, 2019
2. January 1, 2020

Staff Recommendations and Rationale:

Staff recommends a service start date of October 1, 2018. This allows time to communicate with the assessor's office and calculation of any levy rates. It is also a time frame that allows the earliest relief to Bellingham's general fund.

The planning committee discussed these options:

- Captain Pethick stated that the November ballot pushes the RFA's ability to collect funds to January 2020. Fire staff recommends a service start date of October 1st, 2018 for the earliest relief to the City of Bellingham's general fund.
- Councilmember Lilliquist asked if there would be any difficulty in starting the service date on October 1st, 2018 in terms of the two fire entities merging into a unified authority.

- Captain Pethick said that although it will be a lot of work in terms of obtaining a tax identification number, switching over payroll, etc, they will use the resources of their staff to accomplish this timeline.
- Mayor Kelli asked if there is anything that can be done in anticipation of this tight timeline.
- COB Deputy Administrator Heinrich said that there could be a memorandum of agreement developed in anticipation.
- Chief Hewett said that the two entities will not have to consolidate workforce or administration because they have already done so. The transfer of assets can be a gradual process and if the planning committee decides to accept this recommendation, this is the plan and does not necessarily mean that the RFA will be moving forward with it.
- Chief Newbold said that a lot of the work is happening now. Because the COB Fire Department and Fire District 8 already have a relationship contractually, the RFA planning process is that much further ahead.
- Councilmember Lilliquist said that he sees issues with contracts that need to be changed, which is a process that doesn't go very quickly.
- Councilmember Bornemann said that if the committee hits complications after adopting this timeline, the RFA can always shift to a later start date. He said that the planning committee can shoot for it and adjust as necessary along the way.
- COB Finance Director Brian Henshaw said that funding is a requirement. A funding mechanism needs to be established and either way the RFA is going to have to be pre-funded.
- Chief Hewett said that the choice the planning committee has to make is if they want to pre-fund for 3 months or 15 months. The RFA is either going to be pre-funded for 7 months or is going to have to wait for taxes to be collected and revenue to come in for 15 or 16 months. The planning committee is trying to set up for the quickest relief to the general fund as possible. The planning committee doesn't know if it's a difference in cost from one start date to the other. Fire District 8 is collecting what they are collecting. On the City side, there is a benefit of starting earlier to give relief to the general fund early on.
- Councilmember Bornemann said they will be paying from the general fund for another year.
- Finance Director Henshaw said operationally, the start date of January 1 makes sense.
- Councilmember Lilliquist asked what service date means. Is there a way to make the service date different and have other things happen at different times?
- Chief Hewett said the two entities are already operating as one fire department. There is no big difference other than all of their staff would be wearing the same patch on the service start date. It will all be managed under the RFA. Another big difference is that starting on October 1st, the RFA will have a governing board of elected officials who will be overseeing the RFA. In order for the RFA to act as an entity there are two criteria: 1. It must legally exist by following the RCW and 2. Have a legally authorized board. On the start date of services, it won't go from one level of service to another overnight. Any changes in level of service will be implemented over a period of time. As an RFA, it will legally be one entity and have a board that can take action - if passed by voters.
- Councilmember Lilliquist suggested shooting for October 1 and investigating other options if this timeline ends up not working.

- Chief Hewett said that once the RFA misses the window of tax collecting, it is done for another year. If it goes slower than expected after getting through the planning process, the start service date could easily be moved.

The Issue Paper #2 staff recommendation of an October 1st, 2018 service start date and a January 1, 2019 levy collection start date were unanimously approved by the planning committee.

4. Issue Paper #3 - Level of Service - Chief Hewett (15 mins)

Chief Hewett presented Issue Paper #3, which detailed proposed RFA levels of service. He wanted to have a discussion in this meeting and bring those insights and ideas together to create a staff recommendation for the next meeting.

Summary/Description of issue:

Levels of service pertains to response times to critical calls. Currently within the proposed RFA boundaries there are two adopted levels of service, representing both suburban and urban levels of service. The current Whatcom County Fire District 8 adopted level of service is set at 8 minutes and 30 seconds 80% of the time. This level is being consistently met. The City of Bellingham has an adopted level of service set at 4 minutes 90% of the time. This level of service is not being consistently met.

Chief Hewett said that the planning committee is faced with a choice: should a single level of service be adopted for the entire fire authority? Should it have a different level of service for within the city and the district? Urban areas and rural areas? The fire entities are supported by the national fire protection standards. History supports different levels of service for different areas.

The planning committee discussed:

- Councilmember Lilliquist said it is unrealistic to try and expand level of service to rural areas. Could we draw two different service zones with different levels of service? Can map lines be shifted to accommodate different levels of service? Can there be a middle level of service? How many service zones can we support?
- Chief Hewett said that this Issue Paper was brought forth to look at these issues. He said he doesn't like the idea of having levels of service for the district and the city. The organizations have talked about mapping along urban areas. In another jurisdiction he worked in, level of service was based on population per square mile in undeveloped areas of the city. He said that his staff could work with GIS folks to come up with what this option would look like if the committee wanted to see this.
- Councilmember Bornemann said that levels of service based on urban and rural areas seems to make sense. He said he would hesitate for us to lower level of service in main Bellingham service areas because it would be hard to sell to voters. The RFA should not lower level of service in urban areas.
- Fire District 8 Commissioner Rob Neher said that there has to be a different response level for urban and rural areas. The City should be an urban response area and everything

else should be a rural response area.

- Mayor Kelli asked: Is this something that can be changed as the population changes? Urban growth areas will need to have their level of services. Support of objective measure for response times.
- Deputy Administrator Heinrich asked: Does proximity to a station effect response time?
- Chief Hewett said proximity to a fire station is directly related to response time. We aim for a 4-minute drive time 90% of the time. It is important to start looking at drive time as the indicator of level of service. Should we use boundaries like urban growth areas, current city boundaries, etc.? He said he understands where Terry is coming from - should we admit to places where levels of response are lower? Call them rural?
- Councilmember Lilliquist said he would caution against observing urban growth boundaries. The RFA board should look at where structures and population density is.
- COB Planning and Community Development Director Rick Sepler said that the planning committee has to look at the way we change the service for different areas. There should be warrants for when areas are moved to the next service level.
- Councilmember Bornemann asked: What information does staff need to prepare for the next meeting?
- Captain Pethick said staff needs to look at where the people are (population density) and there needs to be a definite mark in population for when it is switched from one category to the next.
- Councilmember Lilliquist said they need to look at map and see if it's reasonable to use existing standards.
- Chief Hewett said that the NFPA offers 4 choices, which gives the planning committee plenty of options to research and bring back next time.
- Fire District 8 Commissioner Roger Buswell said there will be areas that will never meet urban response times, such as the Lake Padden horse trails, Chuckanut Drive, and other parks, trails, and places that aren't easy to get to.
- Chief Hewett said that the wetlands on the other side of the airport are an urban growth area but they still won't get an urban response time.
- Councilmember Bornemann said that staff will take information and flesh it out in an issue paper, bring back for discussion and suggest a recommendation.

5. Issue Paper #5 - Primary Services - Capt. Kays (30 mins)

Captain Tim Kays presented Issue Paper #5, which detailed primary services that the RFA will provide. He wanted to have a discussion in this meeting and bring those insights and ideas together to create a staff recommendation for the next meeting.

Summary/Description of issue:

The RFA plan needs to outline the full range of services to be provided by the RFA.

RCW 52.26.100 states, "Except as otherwise provided in the regional fire protection service authority plan, all powers, duties, and functions of a participating fire protection jurisdiction pertaining to fire protection and emergency services shall be transferred to the regional fire

protection service authority on its creation date or on the effective date that a fire protection jurisdiction is subsequently annexed into an authority”.

Currently:

The City and Fire District #8 have operated under a contract for administrative services since February 2013. Also, since July, 1 2016 the two agencies have been working together under a full service inter-local agreement (ILA). Together, the entire service area operates eight fire stations and one County medic station.

The fire department currently operates or manages the follow major functions:

- **Fire Administrative Services** (Fire Chief, Assistant Chiefs, Office staff)
- **Fire Operations/Fire Protection** (Battalion Chiefs, Captains, Firefighters, Firefighter/Paramedics)
- **Emergency Medical Services** -both basic (BLS) and advanced (ALS) life support services (Division Chief, Community Paramedic)
- **Rescue Services** (Battalion Chiefs, Captains, Firefighters, Firefighter/Paramedics)
- **Training Division** (Fire Division Chief, Captain)
- **Life Safety Division** (Fire Division Chief/Fire Marshal, Inspectors, Permit Technician)
- **Prospect Communications Center (Fire Dispatch)** (Fire Division Chief, Communication Operations Officer, Dispatchers)
- **Office of Emergency Management (OEM)** (Emergency Manager)

The planning committee discussed:

- Mayor Kelli asked: Are there any that we know are going to be recommended?
- Captain Pethick said that the RFA would like to take all services as their responsibility. Fire services wants to keep fire services.
- Councilmember Bornemann read off the list of services and the planning committee discussed:
 - **Fire Administrative Services** - the planning committee agreed that the RFA should take on this responsibility.
 - **Fire Operations** - the planning committee agreed that the RFA should take on this responsibility.
 - **Emergency Medical Services** - the planning committee agreed that the RFA should take on this responsibility.
 - **Rescue Services**
 - Chief Hewett said that this could mean technical rescue, high angle rope rescue, confined rescue, and the things the Fire Department does that aren't aid calls and firefighting.
 - Chief Newbold said the Fire Department currently does a level of adverse terrain and then relies on mountain rescue. Other rescue examples include elevator rescue, hazardous materials response, etc.
 - Mayor Kelli said she would like to hold and have more discussion on this function.

- Chief Newbold said that the fire department responds to all-hazards but they do not mitigate them. This is an example where the department partners with other organizations.
 - Councilmember Bornemann asked: With mountain rescue, is there any other City agency that you would work with? How do we break out the separate department's jurisdiction?
 - Chief Newbold said that South Whatcom and Snohomish County have their own.
 - Mayor Kelli said that it would be helpful to have something written out and bring back for next meeting detailing these things.
- **Training Division** - the planning committee agreed that the RFA should take on this responsibility.
- **Life Safety Division**
 - Councilmember Bornemann asked: What are we talking about here?
 - Chief Hewett said that this includes the fire marshal, inspectors, code enforcement, public education, fire safety, etc.
 - Councilmember Lilliquist asked: Does South Whatcom have life safety?
 - Councilmember Hewett said no, because they don't have a city. They have a building official/deputy fire marshal and fire inspectors through the Whatcom County planning dept.
 - Planning and Community Development Director Sepler asked: What would happen in the unincorporated parts of the county?
 - Chief Hewett said that in the case of the City of Kent and Fire District 37, the RFA kept the responsibility of the fire marshal and came to an agreement with the City to provide fire plan review and fire inspection services. Compensation came along with their contracts. Education services would be delivered RFA wide, but plan review and code enforcement would only be delivered to contract authorities. There is room for discussion with the County.
 - Mayor Kelli said she doesn't feel comfortable making a decision on that today until the planning committee has more discussion.
 - Councilmember Lilliquist said that he agrees, the planning committee needs to learn more about this. If the life safety division went with the RFA, is there a way to have a subdivision?
 - Chief Hewett said that there are no examples of where this has happened.
 - Chief Newbold asked: Would it be helpful for this group to see examples that we've been looking at? Is there some information from constituents in those areas at the executive level that we could obtain?
 - Councilmember Lilliquist asked: How is this working out with applicants?
 - Mayor Kelli said that she likes to start with the facts first. As it exists now, who's doing what? What aren't we doing?
- **Prospect Communication Center** - the planning committee agreed that the RFA should take on this responsibility.
- **Office of Emergency Management**
 - Mayor Kelli thinks of this department as more than just a fire function.
 - Councilmember Lilliquist asked: Wasn't there a conversation about

- having a police person and a fire person?
- Chief Newbold said police didn't take that on.
- Chief Hewett said that the Kent RFA is providing OEM services to the City of Kent, whereas City of Renton took on OEM.
- Councilmember Lilliquist said that we rely on public works a lot. If OEM stays in City or vice versa, what happens?
- Mayor Kelli asked: Can responsibilities be split up between the two entities?
- Chief Hewett said that Contracted service between the City and RFA is possible.

Staff will bring back more information next meeting on Rescue Services, Life Safety Division, and OEM.

6. Issue Paper #4 - Internal/Support Services - Brian Heinrich (30 mins)

Brian Heinrich presented Issue Paper #4, which detailed internal support services for the RFA.

Summary/Description of issue:

The RFA plan needs to outline the full range of services to be provided by the RFA. This issue paper is specific to internal support services only. External services will be addressed in a separate stand-alone document.

The RFA planning committee needs to decide what internal support services will be a function of the RFA, which might remain with the city, and which might be handled with a contract for service. If there is a need to contract between the City and RFA for services, or the District and the RFA, these needs should be identified so contracts can be developed prior to the RFA's effective service date.

These services include Human Resources (HR), Payroll, Finance, Facilities, Legal, Fleet (repair and replacement), and Information Technology (IT).

Currently the Bellingham Fire Department is part of the ICAP fund and the cost for this service is not recognized in the Fire Department budget. Fire District 8 operates differently. Currently the Bellingham Fire Administration handles the payroll, HR, and finance functions for Fire District 8. Fleet repair and maintenance, as well as facilities, is handled through multiple private vendors. Additionally, the COB IT department handles the IT function and the legal function is handled by the firm Chemlik, Sitka, and Davis.

The planning committee discussed:

- Mayor Kelli asked: Which fire related services of those should go with the RFA?
- Deputy Administrator Heinrich said HR, payroll, hiring, discipline, etc. It may be that it makes sense for the RFA to have a certain period of time to unwind the internal servicing on their own. He said the process won't be cut and dry.

- Mayor Kelli said that she would like more information on this topic.
- Councilmember Bornemann said that the planning committee has to look at costs of operating an RFA HR, finance department, etc. as opposed to contract out. He said that the committee needs to hear more from people about what makes sense from the RFA end and the City end. Contracting would work fine.
- Finance Director Henshaw said the RFA could contract that out for ICAP (HR, legal, finance). General fund administration isn't reflected in their budget. IT, fleet or utilities goes in as a revenue and expense. Yes, everyone pays their pro-rata fare. IT is a portion of the pie and changes on how much is spent in any given year. All of these could be split any way, but realistically it needs to be a transition and will take time with the election date, start date, etc. Legal would be one that is much easier to parse out. The other ones would have to be set up.
- Deputy Administrator Heinrich said that IT will be much more complicated to transfer.
- Councilmember Lilliquist said that there will be easier short term transitions, medium term and longer term transitions. With the exception of IT, the RFA would want control of their own facilities, fleet, HR, finance. IT would be harder. Maybe the next time they are doing the next technology update would make sense. Longer term decisions would be made by an RFA governing board. Which are the most necessary and soonest to transfer?
- Mayor Kelli said her assumption is that the City wouldn't charge RFA ICAP.
- Chief Newbold said that this assists the RFA in a smooth transition and recognizes the impact on the City for not providing service for a large number of employees (fleet, finance, etc.) The Fire Department has 180 employees and uses a lot of fleet.
- Councilmember Bornemann asked: What would it look like for the City when certain staffing goes away? This is important to look at. He said he would assume it makes some difference in staffing.
- Chief Hewett asked: What are the needs of the RFA? What are the needs of the City? The planning committee needs to keep these things in mind when coming up with an RFA plan. We could look at WTA history and learn from that. There are certain things that take longer to roll out such as IT. Network and infrastructure makes it a longer term problem. His staff will research what the impacts are to the City. They will come up with recommendations for short-term, mid-term and long-term transitions.
- Mayor Kelli asked: What do the different departments think about this?
- Captain Pethick said that his staff will work with department heads to figure out what the impacts will be.
- Mayor Kelli said the timeline is important. The planning committee should look at the ones we think are longer term.
- Finance Director Henshaw said that expertise and other things can transfer. The two entities already do joint purchases, so that shouldn't be a big transition.
- Chief Hewett said as a fire administration, the COB Fire Department has completed many functions with Fire District 8 already. They are used to handling paperwork, budgeting, etc. In the City, they work with the purchasing department. Fire District 8 already uses their own payroll and finance software. He said his staff will work with department heads to talk about and ensure they understand what services they provide right now and come up with recommendations for immediate, mid-term and long-term issues.
- Councilmember Bornemann said that the planning committee needs to get expertise from different departments to make an educated decision.

- Chief Newbold asked: Is this where we would look at civil service of labor?
- Captain Pethick said civil service falls into labor relations and is a separate issue.

7. Issue Paper #10 - Governance - Chief Hewett (10 mins)

Chief Hewett presented Issue Paper #10, which detailed an RFA governance model. Chief Hewett said he anticipates that this issue will be discussed over the course of several meetings.

Summary/Description of issue:

The Planning Committee needs to decide how the governance board for the RFA should be structured initially, and whether the RFA Plan should also include a transition plan for how that initial board structure should evolve.

Two RCW's directly pertain to the governance board - RCW 52.26.080 which refers to the organization and composition of the governing board, and RCW 52.26.090 which refers to the powers of the governing board.

These RCW's clarify that the plan must identify the structure of the governing board within certain limits.

The issues included here are:

- A. Number of members on the governing board?
- B. How are the seats filled? Are members voted directly to the board or do elected officials from each agency get appointed to the board?
- C. If members are voted directly to the board, should it be all at-large positions or from wards or districts?
- D. Should we create non-voting/advisory positions on the board for other governmental stakeholders (ie Port or Lummi Nation)?
- E. What are the terms of office? How should they be staggered?
- F. How should seats be initially allocated? Why?
- G. If the board structure should change over time, should we decide that now? Could decisions made now be changed later? What are the pros and cons of deciding now rather than later?
- H. If a transition plan for governance is identified now, what should that plan be?
- I. Does the transition plan impact when other jurisdictions could ideally become part of the RFA?

Chief Hewett said it is very similar of what goes on with the WTA with 2 councilmembers on their board. South Snohomish RFA chose to do a transition. On day 1 of formation, the board

was made up of Sno-1 commissioners and city council members and then over a four-year period, they are transitioning to a direct RFA board. Fire district has a direct connection. A downfall of this method is that the fire district needs to continue to exist. The 4 districts that made up South Whatcom Fire District were able to dissolve. Is it fair representation to have 50/50 split with the fire station and the City? He said he wants to make sure the planning committee doesn't set the RFA up with an overwhelming board. Orange County, California has a 27-member board. He doesn't want to create too large of a board. When the planning committee writes the plan, it needs to include language for how representation would look. Further annexation, merging, etc. Do we want to create any non-voting or advisory positions? Port Commission or LIBC are good examples. Two of our biggest rate paying customers are LIBC/Port Commission. If there is anything the planning committee wants to know, we should talk about it before putting together any recommendations.

The planning committee discussed:

- Mayor Kelli suggested appointing officials first and then going forth with identifying commissioners. What happens to the employees at the Port?
- Chief Hewett said Fire services gives support to ARRF (Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting). If there is a sick patient at the airport, the Fire Department responds. If there is a crash at the airport, the ARRF applies foam on to the aircraft and the Fire Department takes care of the rest.
- Kelli said there is infrastructure available.
- Fire District 8 Commissioner Neher said that a joint effort with the Port hasn't worked in the past.
- Chief Hewett said that they have had conversations back and forth about their wishes. Statutorily we are required to have the Port. He said no matter how you slice it, it would be a contracting relationship.
- Mayor Kelli said new commissioners and directors would maybe approve.
- Councilmember Lilliquist asked: What governing model would serve the future residents of the fire authority? He said that 5 directly elected commissioners makes the most sense. He said the transition model makes sense. He would favor 5 indirectly elected commissioners.
- Councilmember Bornemann said he is not as sure.
- Fire District 8 Commissioner Neher - 5 or 7 elected members. Start with elected people (commissioners and city council members) then you can split it up differently later.
- Chief Hewett said that it may not ensure long term that the city council has direct choice in it, but as the department is set up it would mean the two entities would come together.
- Councilmember Lilliquist said that a hybrid system that Bellingham has. Want to guarantee representation and protects from playing for their own.
- Councilmember Bornemann said the problem with that is that we are looking at positions. Are they paid or what? To run any campaign in that large of a district is a hard thing to do. He said that it makes it tough for a person to run for positions.
- Mayor Kelli said it will be interesting to see County Council. They would be representing the whole district, not just where they live.
- Captain Pethick said there are statutes that speak to this. There is direction.

- Councilmember Bornemann said there is a big difference between appointments and directly elected officials. He would like to see more information on this issue.
- Chief Hewett said the goal today was to get the planning committee to start thinking about this issue.
- Captain Pethick said that Senate Bill 6628 is based on population served, amount of budget, and might decide how many members are on the board.
- Planning and Community Development Director Sepler asked: Does the planning committee you have to prescribe out what the solution is now? Knowing this information would help.
- Chief Hewett said we have great latitude to write in the plan what the governing board is. Now is the time for us to set up the process for how we want it to change in the future.
- Councilmember Bornemann asked: Can an employee of the RFA run for the board? These are things the planning committee needs to think about.
- Chief Hewett said if questions pop up, send them to his team so they can look at them.

8. Next Agenda/Date (10 min.)

The next RFA planning committee meeting will be held Monday, October 2nd from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. in the Mayor's Boardroom at Bellingham City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham. The agenda for next meeting is to bring back more information on Issue Paper #3, 4, 5 and 10, as well as introduce new items to the planning committee.

9. Closing Comments/Adjourn

The RFA planning committee adjourned at 4:54 P.M.

Recorded by Monea Kerr.