



Snohomish County Fire Chiefs' Association

"Progressive Fire Protection Through Cooperation"

Established 1970

Officers

President

DC Dave Kraski

Vice-President

AC Shaughn Maxwell

Treasurer

Chief Jim Haverfield

Immediate Past President

Directors

Large Agencies

Chief Kevin O'Brien

Medium Agencies

Chief Eric Andrews

Small Agencies

Chief Keith Strotz

Liaisons

Legislative

Chief Michael McConnell

Fire Commissioners

Chief Don Waller

Training/Safety Officers

Chief Colby Titland

Special Operations

Chief Dave Ruddell

EMS Council

DC Joe Hughes

Fire Prevention

Shawneri Guzman

Washington Fire Chiefs

Chief Kevin O'Brien

Policy/Procedure Committee Chair

Chief Eric Andrews

SNO911 Fire Tac

Chief Eric Andrews

Board Meeting

August 28, 2024

1:00 PM

Call Meeting to Order

Additions to Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Old Business:

- .2% tax increase - SCFCA vote
- Formal vote on SCEMS proposal to be placed on Sept. 9th General Meeting Agenda

New Business:

- PFAS-Free Clothing Manufacturer -Zenkai (K. O'Brien)

Committee/Division Updates (as needed)

Announcements

Adjourn

Attachments:



Snohomish County Chiefs' Association
Board Meeting
10:00 a.m.
June 13, 2024

PRESENT:	Dave Kraski	President North County Fire
	Shaughn Maxwell	Vice-President South County Fire
	Jim Haverfield	Secretary/Treasurer SCFD 17
	Kevin O'Brien	Large Agencies Director SRFR
	Eric Andrews	Medium Agencies Director SCFD19
	Keith Strotz	Small Agencies Director SCFD19
	Vacant	Immediate Past President
	Jason Biermann	Snohomish County DEM

A. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 1401 hours.

B. Adopt/Adjust Agenda No adjustments to the agenda

C. Minutes

Action: A motion was made by Chief Kraski to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Chief O'Brien seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

D. Old Business

None.

E. New Business

Jason Biermann is gauging support for a potential 2/10 of 1% public safety sales tax requested in early June. A similar proposal failed previously. 1/3 must go to criminal justice, per the RCWs. The rest may be used by any government agencies. Councilmembers are proposing half go to law enforcement. The other half would go toward critical needs regarding the drug epidemic. There is a proposal to build a new mental health facility and update the Carnegie Building. There would also be some support for Fire & EMS. The nursing line and SCEMS would be supported.

Each city will get a portion of the tax. The information provided above would simply be out of the County's portion of the tax, should it pass.

Jason is seeking feedback ahead of the next Council hearing.

The hope is that this will be presented to the Auditor by August for placement on the November ballot. The Council will need to vote on this on July 10th.

Chief Kraski mentioned that he had heard at one time that this had been negative for the fire service. Jason mentioned that he's sensitive to that type of talk and he'd like to avoid making

this tougher on any agency or their funding. They don't want it to impact agencies' hiring, levies, etc.

Chief Andrews mentioned that in 2016 this was promoted as providing more firefighters and police officers. It was determined that that was not the case, and it would not have helped the fire districts at all.

Chief Haverfield shared that he thinks the cities will not provide any of this tax funding to fire. He asked where the other 50% of the tax will go. He also asked if there is a sunset on the 2/10 of 1% tax. Jason stated that there is not currently a sunset, but Council could certainly adopt one.

Jason shared a pie chart that showed that the County's 50% will be used for criminal justice functions. The other 50% would cover the nurse line, behavioral health facility, community resource center, SCEMS, and other public safety and health measures.

Chief Andrews mentioned that many years ago the County would contribute to the EMS office. At one point, they pulled back that funding. He'd be interested in some assurance that this will be in place while it's being collected and not pulled back during budget shortages. He asked whether Everett or Mukilteo will be charged. They will receive funding, and they will get their portions of the Nurse Line and EMS services. He'd like to see the cities pay their portion of the nurse line and their EMS services. Should they not cover their shares and still collect their portion of the tax it would seem inequitable.

The RCW requires that the County must post the intended uses (outside of criminal justice) on the ballot. Jason stated that the revenue must be used as what's listed in the ballot measure. The County could change things, but the Chiefs may have some input as to how the ballot measure is written/crafted. The language can be addressed as this progresses. Fourteen city mayors signed a letter of support of this tax.

The County is proposing to cover what Jason understands to be the difference between what the Chiefs are currently funding and what the "ideal" state will be as determined by the SCEMS task force. This would cover the difference between where we are now and what the end goal might be after the task force finishes their assessment.

Jason's request today is that the group discuss this and share feedback with him. If the Executive Board comes up with any red flags or issues that might be detrimental to their agencies, they should feel free to let him know

Chief Kraski offered to add this to the agenda for the Special General Membership meeting to be held on July 15th.

Jason wanted to be sure the Chiefs had this information ahead of the Everett Herald publishing their upcoming story.

Chief O'Brien asked what might be included in the "Behavioral Health" piece. Jason shared that the biggest gap is secure withdrawal management. There are only 77 beds statewide and none of them are in our region. There is a concurrent need for a crisis stabilization facility. They'd love to see hospital wall wait times decreased and have more beds available for those in need.

Chief O'Brien suggested that gathering some data, hard numbers, about how this could help fire service agencies would be helpful.

Jason is trying to carefully navigate so as not to impact anything that individual agencies might hope to seek funding for in the future.

Chief Andrews reminded the group that he'd like to be sure that it would be advertised as paying for more firefighters as that could impact staffing. He also mentioned that dispatch costs could be covered, at some point, which would be very helpful.

Jason had mentioned that to the Council, but they don't want to supplant any items that are funded by other sources.

Chief Strotz reminded the group that he doesn't like the nurse line.

Chief Maxwell thanked Jason for attending and providing this information. SCEMS is close to providing their recommendations and he'd like to be sure that wherever SCEMS ends up being housed should be carefully considered as it could be impacted. Per Jason, the County has no intention of overstepping into the administration of SCEMS.

F. Committee Updates

G. Announcements/Good of the Order

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 0201 hours. The motion was made by Chief Hovis and was seconded by Chief Andrews.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Susan Bjorling
Executive Assistant, Office of the Fire Chief
South County Fire

Next Meeting:
August 28, 2024
1:00 pm

Attachments: