

Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 25, 2017
Meeting Time: 9:00am
Meeting Place: Lakewood City Hall, Council Chambers

I. Chair Joe Lonergan called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

II. Roll Call -

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| 1. Joe Lonergan, City of Tacoma Councilmember | present |
| 2. Tim Curtis, City of Fife Councilmember | present |
| 3. Doug Richardson, Pierce County Councilmember | excused |
| 4. Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive | present |
| 5. Nick Hausner for Paul Pastor, Pierce County Sheriff | present |
| 6. Robert Thoms, City of Tacoma Councilmember | present |
| 7. Michael Brandstetter, City of Lakewood Councilmember | excused |
| 8. Grant Erb, West Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner | present |
| 9. Julie Door, City of Puyallup Councilmember | excused |
| 10. Dave Enslow, City of Sumner Mayor | present |

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Consent Agenda

1. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Curtis); 2nd (Erb), passed – unanimously.

VI. Old Business – None

VII. Operations Board Briefing

- Chief Sharp reported that the Operations Board reviewed the after-action report for the August 12th evacuation of the Law Enforcement Communications Center. The Board was pleased with report that identified successes and areas for improvement. The Operations Board also received the IXP presentation on the Policy Board agenda today. Operations Board is pleased with report, which provides a good starting point.

VIII. Presentation and Discussion

1. Fire/Ems Call Receiving and Dispatch Report

- Deputy Director Ken Sharp provided background on the Fire Operations planning to date. Goal is to seek operational models that meet the needs of all agencies, both South Sound 911 Fire Communications and Tacoma Fire. Kevin Kearns, IXP consultant presented his findings.
- Boardmember Enslow asked if the Policy Board will take action in the future about the Fire dispatch model. Executive Director Neiditz advised the Board will

weigh in, in the future, in collaboration with City of Tacoma. South Sound 911 has no authority to dictate model to Tacoma or other agencies served.

- Boardmember Enslow asked about the financial implications of models. Mr. Neiditz reported that currently Tacoma Fire manages its own budget and pays for its own services and is not included in the South Sound 911 allocations. It is understood that other agencies do not want to pay more for the Tacoma Fire model and they would not be financially responsible for “special service.” To implement the enhanced call receiving will require more training of staff. One of the 2018 budget goals is to hire a consultant to evaluate the allocation model and this issue will be included in that evaluation.
- Boardmember Thoms reported that the City of Tacoma feels confident in the current level of Fire dispatch service.
- Boardmember Dammeier expressed disappointment in the presentation. He was hoping to receive recommendations on best practices. He is also very interested in understanding the financial implications, and the best use of tax payer resources broadly.
- IXP explained that there is no such thing as the best practice in this business. Dispatch models differ between jurisdictions and groups of jurisdictions. The best practice is specific to individual circumstances and agencies. IXP’s goal was to expose characteristics of each model. Model E is recommended by IXP to deal with concerns expressed by the agencies with other models. Model E is the best opportunity for starting point to move into the future. IXP did not reach that recommendation because of the steering committee. Deputy Director Sharp commented that there are distinct differences even within the agencies dispatched by South Sound 911 Fire Communications. This is not just the uniform versus civilian issue. The Tacoma system works extremely well for their operations. In the future, there may be an evolution to change that dynamic. It also should be lost that the recommendation to move to centralized call taking for South Sound 911 is a huge, significant change to centralize call taking and will take at least a year.
- Chair Lonergan clarified that under Model E when a citizen calls 911 except for Tacoma Fire served areas they will get one person and not be transferred. Mr. Kearns advised that is the case with the exception of Washington State Patrol calls. In integrated call taking model, the CAD will dispatch to LE and Fire as applicable, but there is only one call intake process. Chair Lonergan advised that the Policy Board will make the decision on how to allocate to costs. The 10% operational offset to Tacoma Fire may be inappropriately calculated because it is currently based on their total dispatch costs which is a more costly model. The Policy Board needs to make sure that the other agencies don't pay for the enhanced Tacoma Fire services. Mr. Lonergan appreciated the report which he felt gave a lot more information and provided a recommendation.

- Boardmember Thoms commented that Tacoma has assumed additional costs for a better model and he is not willing to take a step backward.

IX. Staff Updates

1. Executive Director Briefing

- Mr. Neiditz reported that the Strategic Study is moving forward with the validation workshop for Policy Board and Operations Board scheduled for November 8th. Recommendations expected in December.
- Pre-design is continuing. CallisonRTKL and ADG have conducted site visits of all facilities. A community meeting is schedule on November 29th at 6pm in the Lincoln District neighborhood to hear about issues and concerns about the development. Development options anticipated in the December/January timeframe.
- The ILA group to review financial projections on November 1st. Will be a good discussion on the ability of the tax revenue to support financing of building.
- Peter Beckwith, General Counsel, provided a review of the ILA and the responsibilities of the parties - member agencies, Boards. The ILA speaks to financing and that Pierce County may do the bonding with considerations. An agreement is needed with all member agencies. Mr. Beckwith responded to the issue that if the Policy Board has a path forward can one agency veto financing? The ILA allows that if member agency chooses not to approve that agency can become non-member agency. South Sound 911 is in communication with Pierce County on the cost of the project and bonds needed. Pierce County will need to agree and the member agencies will need to approve funding.

VIII. New Business - None

IX. Action Items - None

IX. Other Business / Announcements

- Boardmember Dammeier is encouraged by DELTAWRX's experience, and feels the questions and process has been good. He is hopeful they will bring forward a report that addresses the issues.

X. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:43am; 2nd, passed – unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Rebecca Hendricks