

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** October 13, 2021  
**Meeting Time:** 9:00am  
**Meeting Place:** WebEx video conference

I. **Call to Order** – Vice-Chair Julie Door called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

II. **Roll Call** -

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| 1. Michael Brandstetter, City of Lakewood Councilmember   | present |
| 2. Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive                | present |
| 3. Julie Door, City of Puyallup Mayor                     | present |
| 4. Matt Holm, Central Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner   | present |
| 5. J. Kelly McClimans, City of Bonney Lake Councilmember  | present |
| 6. Pat McElligott, East Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner | present |
| 7. Bill Pugh, City of Sumner Mayor                        | excused |
| 8. Dan Rankin, West Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner     | present |
| 9. Robert Thoms, City of Tacoma Councilmember             | excused |
| 10. Derek Young, Pierce County Councilmember              | present |
| 11. Lillian Hunter, City of Tacoma Councilmember          | excused |

III. **Public Comment** – None

IV. **Consent Agenda**

1. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Brandstetter); 2<sup>nd</sup> (McClimans), passed – unanimously.

V. **Communication Cost Allocation Presentation**

- Executive Director Deborah Grady shared that as of 4am, all 911 call taking is live at the new facility. The final move will take place next week when the LE dispatchers arrive.
- Executive Director Grady advised that a full review of the cost allocation formula is intended to be completed at the 5-year mark in 2024 unless the Board of Directors deems it necessary to review earlier.

Boardmember Derek Young joined the meeting at 9:04am

- Finance Director Janet Caviezel provided an overview of the process used to create the current cost allocation formula used for the police and fire partner agencies.
- Boardmember Bruce Dammeier noted that it appears the smaller fire districts are seeing the largest rate increases. Finance Director Caviezel advised that the three smallest fire districts have a flat rate assessment at 5% and several of the smaller agencies will pay less in 2022 than what was paid in 2018. Boardmember Dammeier stated that the Board must continue to protect the smaller districts and ensure policies do not affect those agencies in a disproportionate way.
- Finance Chair Michael Brandstetter advised that the current allocation model is working as the 2018 committee intended. The current model was created to provide a reduction

to smaller agencies based upon what was paid using the previous model. Finance Chair Brandstetter noted most small districts are below the 2018 allocations even after rate increases.

- Chief Dan Olson advised the workgroup spent a lot of time reviewing the issues surrounding smaller districts with very few calls for service. The group felt it was important the smaller districts pay something for the services provided, which is why the flat rate figure was recommended.
- Boardmember Dammeier shared that he wanted to provide some clarification in regards to how he approached the 2022-23 Pierce County budget in light of recent correspondence exchanged between the Board and Pierce County.
  - (a) Boardmember Dammeier advised that he proposed the transition of the E911 excise tax to be completed by 2023.
  - (b) Boardmember Dammeier noted three points about the proposed budget: 1) using the 1/10 of 1% sales tax on radios is an allowable use of the funds; 2) the proposed budget reflects transitioning emergency communications and emergency management to the Pierce County general fund; 3) the budget uses the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% sales tax to maintain the current policy of radio rate buy down. The County does not want radio users to see an increase as a result of transitioning the E911 funds to South Sound 911.
  - (c) Boardmember Dammeier noted that he would like to see discussions begin regarding the use of the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% sales tax to defer costs for all radio users, regardless of what system the user is on.
  - (d) Boardmember Pat McElligott asked for clarification regarding radio units.  
Boardmember Dammeier confirmed it includes both portable and mobile units.
- Vice-Chair Door referred to General Counsel Peter Beckwith to address if the current discussion is allowed as it was not on the agenda and not all of the partner agencies are represented at the meeting.
- General Counsel Beckwith advised that the Chair of the meeting can decide if the discussion should continue.
- General Counsel Beckwith also noted that the question at hand is whether it is a Pierce County or a South Sound 911 Board of Directors decision on how the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% sales tax is spent. It is the agency's position that the Board of Directors authorizes the spending of the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% sales tax based off the current funding agreement.
- Vice-Chair Door shared that both the Board of Directors and Pierce County could be in agreement on how the sales tax is spent, however, the South Sound 911 Board of Directors must have control over its budget and that is what the funding agreement provides.
- Boardmember Dammeier advised that his proposed budget is intended to launch discussions regarding how the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% sales tax can be used to buy down all radio user costs.
- Vice-Chair Door asked Executive Director Grady to add this topic to the next regular meeting agenda.

VI. **Adjournment** - A motion was made (Rankin) to adjourn the meeting at 9:37am; 2<sup>nd</sup> (McElligott), passed – unanimously.

Mandy Walters, Clerk of the Board