

**KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #2**  
**Ellensburg, Washington**

**Minutes of:** Commissioners' Board Meeting  
**Meeting date:** April 19, 2023  
**Meeting time:** 1800  
**Meeting place:** 400 E. Mountain View, Station 29

The special meeting was publicized according to the requirements of Chapter 188, Laws of 2012. Each Board member was sent a written notice via e-mail; the Daily Record was notified via an e-mail, a notice was posted on KVFR's website, and the notice of special meeting was posted in the front window at 400 E. Mountain View.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Pat Clerf, Neal Houser, Neil O'Neill, Jerry Pettit and Ross Ogan.

**Others in Attendance:** Chief John Sinclair, District 7 Secretary Eryn Micallef, Fire District 7 Commissioners- Commissioner Cernick, Commissioner Dickinson, Commissioner Zipperer, ASM McBride, numerous members of the public and numerous firefighters.

**1. Call to Order:** Commissioner Clerf called the meeting to Order at 1800 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Dickinson opened the meeting for KCFD7.

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

Commissioner Neal Houser a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner O'Neill seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**3. Discussion on regionalization efforts between Kittitas County Fire District 2 and Kittitas County Fire District 7:**

ESCI's Patrick McIntosh introduced the members of ESCI and then went through a detailed PowerPoint of their regionalization study between KVFR and KCFD7. Discussed in report included:

- The population growth and projected call volume in years to come.
- The need for apparatus and capital updates in both Districts.
- The different cultures in each district and the operational and organizational benefits of merging the two districts in some way.
- They discussed the 3 options before the districts; status quo, contractual consolidation, and RFA.

They went over each option and made a recommendation to consider contractual consolidation.

**4. Public Comment:** Comments and questions from both the online and in-person audience were taken. All online comments or questions were read during the public meeting and all in-person audience members were given an opportunity to speak. Questions and comments included:  
a. Why not merge with Upper County Districts first? They have been approached and all have stated they are not interested.

- b. Do you have pro-form data about what financially this will look like? No, just the evaluation of where the districts are currently and what combining could eliminate duplicity.
- c. A KVFR resident recently had a 20 minute response time for a call, how will this help that? Without knowing the exact call and circumstances can't comment on that call, likely multiple calls happening at the same time.
- d. Without a legal document could you still train together? Yes that would be Status Quo, doesn't really improve services.
- e. With Districts 31 miles apart how would Battalion Chiefs respond? With shift supervision added they would be able to handle the calls until the BC's arrive.
- f. Was the WSRB ratings factored into ESCI's recommendation? Yes, GIS was used to evaluate response times, and a station location study would be needed in the future to best place stations where the most population is.
- g. Was the HD2 Board asked for their input? No, they were not but they can be asked in the future, ESCI will reach out to them.
- h. How do the labor unions from each District feel about this? Chief Sinclair answered, but a few members of the union in the audience stated they are open to it but need more information.
- i. How can the Districts merge with different response policies? Those policies will need to be reevaluated to align with each District and that can be done at the time that the contract is negotiated.
- j. How much did this report cost? Around \$60,000 split between Districts
- k. This plan allows for a two person engine response, that's not ideal? Financially that is what can be afforded. Over time hopefully more can be added.
- l. I don't see the Day Captain at 73? What happens to him? Nobody would lose their jobs, some would be reclassified and adjusted but there are no plans to take anybody's positions from them.

Next Steps: The Boards will go back to their regular meetings and have conversations and make a decision if they want to move forward with consolidation or not. If yes then establish a senior planning committee that would have members from HR/payroll/finance, labor, volunteer, Deputy Chiefs and Chief. Then move to Ad Hoc working groups to work out details. This will take time to put together. This entire report and presentation will be available on both Districts websites.

**5. Adjournment**

Commissioner O'Neill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Houser seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1933 hours.

Pat C. Ed  
Board Chair

[Signature]  
District Secretary

