

**Dundee City Council
&
Dundee Rural Fire Protection Board
Joint Special Meeting
November 28, 2022**

Call to Order

This joint meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. by Dundee Mayor David Russ and Dundee Rural Fire Protection Board President Don Carpenter.

Meeting Attendance

Mayor David Russ; Councilors David Ford, Tim Weaver, and Bruce Starr. Via Zoom: Councilors Jeannette Adlong and Ted Crawford. Absent: Councilor Storr Nelson. Staff Members: Steve Dahl, City Administrator; and Brandon Hamilton, Fire Chief.

Dundee Rural Fire Protection Board Members Present: Dan Bechtold, Michelle Bechtold, and Don Carpenter.

Public Attendance

Brian Smith, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R); and Bert Hanifan, 1233 SW Fir Court.

Business

Brandon Hamilton, Fire Chief, summarized his proposal to these bodies regarding an operating levy to assist with current staffing issues and soften the future financial impact of requesting additional funding for the formation of a fire district. Staff indicated that they are seeking direction related to placing this levy on an upcoming ballot and how to structure the rates. Chief Hamilton clarified that staff is only seeking input on the current proposed operating levy, asking to fund three additional employees for the department, and not the future creation of a fire district. He gave details about the roles these three employees could fill within the department.

Discussion ensued regarding how holiday coverage is maintained. Details were also provided about the mechanisms of fire department scheduling, including overtime and shift trades. Chief Hamilton also emphasized that the department relies on volunteers to fill staffing gaps.

C. Weaver emphasized that the proposed staffing levels do not account for staff illness and absence and would only provide minimum coverage under ideal circumstances. He expressed concerns about major events not being responded to appropriately in the future.

C. Ford stated that he would like input from everyone present regarding whether they are in support of moving forward with placing an operating levy on the ballot.

Mayor Russ went into detail about the specific rates that might be included in the levy. There was brief discussion about whether this was a negotiation about rate-setting, or if these bodies would simply set the rate. Mayor Russ emphasized that rural taxpayers would not be willing to pay the same rates as city residents. Michelle Bechtold reiterated that asking for the full amount would be

unlikely to be successful on the ballot. She went into some detail about the rates that staff proposed; Chief Hamilton responded that these numbers were only proposed as a starting point for this discussion.

Dan Bechtold expressed concerns about taking multiple funding requests to the public in upcoming years. Chief Hamilton reiterated that asking for a smaller amount now provides the fire department with an opportunity to demonstrate the value they can provide the community with additional funding, which could help convince voters to approve additional funding in the future.

Discussion continued about the potential rates that could be set for the individual entities or if there should be flat rate for both. Ms. Bechtold was not in support of equal rates for each entity and stated she does not believe discussing specifics at this time would be productive. Chief Hamilton provided clarification on the breakdown of actual costs between the two entities. Brian Smith, TVF&R, came forward to give information on voter education and advocacy for a levy. Discussion ensued regarding how to determine a monetary figure that the voters are likely to approve.

C. Weaver emphasized that the public needs to be made fully aware that additional funding will be needed in the future, and not to mislead people into thinking this levy would solve all issues. Mr. Smith stated that advocacy should be focused on service rather than long-term planning to avoid confusion.

Discussion transitioned to the timeline of the levy. Consensus was that a longer levy would be most beneficial, as there are mechanisms available if it needed to be eliminated early.

Discussion ensued about the goal for this particular meeting. Consensus was to move forward with a five-year levy and have staff prepare specific numbers to bring to a future joint meeting of these bodies. Staff advised that the deadline for submitting a levy to the ballot is 60 days before the May 16 election.

Discussion moved back into specific monetary figures.

A **motion** was made by C. Weaver, seconded by C. Ford, to direct staff to explore hiring 3 full-time fire fighters with accumulated costs up to \$460,000 to prepare for a presentation of a levy in May of 2023, with a millage rate to be established by task force, with staff's participation and research, to be completed by January 31, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Michelle Bechtold, seconded by Don Carpenter, to move forward with working with City Council to bring two levies to citizens in May to hire three additional firefighters at \$460,000.00 per year. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion turned to the members of the task force. Ms. Bechtold advised that the DRFPT Board will have a decision by February 6, 2023.

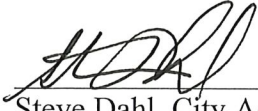
There was no public comment. The chair of each body adjourned their meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 P.M.



David Russ, Mayor

Attest:



Steve Dahl, City Administrator