



Community News and Notes

FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Future of the Fall City Fire Department

Citing concerns regarding financial sustainability and service delivery, Fire District 27 commissioners are exploring possible futures for the Fall City Fire Department. The option selected to put on a ballot for community approval/disapproval could have significant impact on the fire staff, local businesses, and residents in Fire District 27, so it is important that community members become familiar with the ramifications of each option for themselves and the community and to seek answers from and make their preferences known to the commissioners early in the process. The possible options identified by the commissioner-created task force include:

- Continuing as a stand-alone fire district;
- Joining Eastside Fire and Rescue as a partner;
- Merging with King County Fire District 10, itself a member of Eastside Fire and Rescue; or
- Forming a cooperative arrangement with the City of Snoqualmie Fire Department.

There are certainly pros and cons for each of the four options. To list a few:

- Continuing as a stand-alone preserves Fire District 27 with ownership of building and equipment and local control over staffing, training, etc., but leaves the district with financial challenges at the current taxing level (\$1.27 per \$1000), which is still below what it is authorized to collect (\$1.50/\$1000).
- The option to join Eastside Fire and Rescue as a partner was removed by the commissioners because it was viewed as too expensive; however, a community resident requested information on the percent increase for each taxpayer if it remained an option that would allow Fire District 27 to remain intact and able to withdraw at a future date, should that become advisable.
- Merging with District 10 would result in significant pluses for full-time firefighters in Fall City and raise the staffing level to three full-time firefighters, but would leave Fall City without a chief or local control, and Fire District 27

would disappear. All equipment and the building would be turned over to District 10. While many homeowners would see some reduction in taxes, many larger homes and businesses could see significant increases.

- Discussions are in the very early stages with the City of Snoqualmie, with four sub-options to consider, ranging from agreements to cooperate to a voter-approved merger forming a regional fire authority or annexation into district. Talks will continue.

At the July 24 public meeting, two of the three commissioners voted in favor of beginning the petition process to merge with Fire District 10, which, if it comes to pass, is irreversible. (At this point, early in the petition process, it is not unstoppable; another option can still be selected.) For more information on the options, go to www.king27fire.com to review the available documents, particularly the Consolidation Committee Report to the Commissioners and the Consolidation Committee Pros/Cons matrix. For additional information on the Snoqualmie option, go to www.ci.snoqualmie.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/20207/Snoqualmie-and-Fall-City-Fire-Scoping-Report-03-2018-PDF.

The **August 7** FCCA meeting agenda includes, but is not limited to, a further look at Fire District 27 options; the Lake Kachess initiative; a letter of support for an all-inclusive playground at Centennial Fields in Snoqualmie; an update from the Raging River Conservation Group; community news; and updates from King County.

THERE WAS NO JULY FCCA MEETING.

NEXT FCCA MEETING: Tuesday, August 7
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Fall City Fire Station
4301 334th Place SE