

Attachment #3

Fire Funding Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Summary

February 11, 2019

Gary Suiter, City Manager, started off the meeting by reviewing the objectives stated on the agenda, emphasizing the committee's job of developing viable options for the new fire station and providing funding options that the citizenry would likely support. He also stated the committee should avoid discussing whether we should build a new station, where it should go, and how much it might cost.

Gary Suiter suggested the committee then select a chair that will be neutral, objective, inclusive, and efficient. After a short discussion, Kathy Connell was unanimously selected as Chair and Gary Cogswell was selected as Vice Chair. City staff will provide committee support and take summary minutes.

The group then discussed committee ground rules and agreed to the following:

- Member comments should be limited to 3 minutes and long "lectures" avoided
- Be open minded to all suggestions - listen
- The Committee will be apolitical (politically neutral)
- This is a working committee, but may accept public comment at the committee's discretion

Subcommittees – the group agreed they should meet a couple of times and identify key issues before appointing subcommittees. A question was raised as to whether the committee should follow the same rules of City Council regarding discussion outside of the posted committee meetings. (The City Attorney has since confirmed that the committee has to go by the same rules...that is, no more than two committee members may meet outside of the officially posted meeting.

Meeting times were discussed and agreed to. The committee will meet every Monday at 3:00 p.m. for 90 minutes in Room 113/114, due to the table arrangement and access to visual aids. The meeting on February 25th was set from 5:30 to 7:30p.m.

Discussions followed regarding the committee's scope including governance, staffing of the Fire/EMS function, budget and associated impacts. The committee agreed they should provide recommendations to City Council regarding governance structure, taxation strategies, a preliminary budget for capital and operating, and other potential funding mechanisms. They also agreed that a discussion of funding "offsets" should be considered.

The group agreed to invite Bob Weiss as a guest at a future meeting to hear his opinions. We also need to ensure we have a representative from the District Board. Staff will follow up on that and coordinate.

Additional info requested from staff for the next meeting:

- Summary of funding options in spread sheet format, including sales tax, property tax, sin tax and entertainment tax. (Note: * Entertainment sales tax can range from movie tickets, concert tickets, door charges, lift tickets, and other items that currently are exempted. Since these

items currently aren't taxed, the City does not have estimates, but could provide additional research if needed.)

- Newspaper articles from 10/11; 10/17; 11/6; 11/13; 11/13; 11/14; 1/24 or sooner
- A summary of objections
- Minutes from previous Council meetings
- Send out group email addresses to all and keep the subcommittees on the agenda.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 18th at 3:00 in Room 113/114 at Centennial Hall.

Respectfully,

Gary Suiter, City Manager

Fire Funding Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Summary

February 18, 2019

Committee members present: Kathy Connell, Gary Cogswell, Dan Pirrallo, Joella West, and Bud Romberg. Steve Sehnert and Ed MacArthur joined in by teleconference. Randall Hannaway and Karl Gills represented the Fire District. Councilwoman Robin Crossan was also present. Staff: Mel Stewart, Fire Chief and Gary Suiter, City Manager. Joe Oakland was in the audience representing the Firefighter's Union.

Kathy called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. The 2/11/19 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Karl gave a brief background on the District's involvement. The District's goals included a streamlined governance structure and a stable, long-term funding source. Kathy raised the point about a possible fire authority as a governing entity. It was noted that the District and city did not go forward with the fire authority concept due to its additional complexity. Kathy asked that the committee keep their minds open as to this option.

Bud appealed to the group, stating he understands the need for more funds but feels the current funding proposal is "overbuilt", and should be phased as the need arises. He sees this as both a fairness issue and a governance issue. He noted that district residents pay both property tax and sales tax, while second homeowners in the city are not covering their fair share of costs, and are getting a great deal. A mill levy in the city would be a more stable form of income. Commercial properties pay very little sales tax, as it is primarily a pass through. Locals pay about two-thirds of the city's sales tax revenue. Visitors pay about one-third, yet are heavily impacting both fire and transportation costs. Bud stated he would like the City to maintain control over competing calls for various city services (including Fire and EMS) and suggests the partnership (between the District and the City) continue as it is. In light of the above points, Bud suggested the city's share of cost be spread out between a combination of: a property tax well below 9 mills for the Fire station, but perhaps with a maximum that could be increased as needed without having to go to an election; a "sin" tax on alcohol (both packaged and mixed drinks and maybe marijuana); and, an entertainment tax on items to be determined (due to impact from visitors). Discussion followed regarding commercial interests and possible tax breaks for them. It was noted we would need to get legal opinions on possible "tax breaks" and also consider administrative costs of such.

Dan reiterated his concerns about governance, budget, and equitable funding. He asked Gary S. if it was okay to discuss all three concepts. Gary S. agreed. Karl clarified the District can levy up

to 9 mills, and is currently levying just over 6 mills. Dan said he and Ed met with both Kim Weber and Mel and he can now see how to come up with a budget. The challenge is determining the level of services acceptable to citizens and what they are willing to pay. Kathy suggested using data for concurrent calls. Bud noted the possible phasing in the proposal and suggests spreading out the costs over time.

Ed weighed in saying there needs to be a conversation about doubling the budget with only a 25% increase in calls over 5 years, saying that will not get approved by the electorate. We are asking for a lot in comparison with amount of calls going forward. Gary C. agrees the proposed staff increases are concerning. There needs to be some response to these concerns. Joella said the dilemma relates to the fire department as it exists today, as it is currently understaffed, and we are playing catch-up. Mel agreed with Joella. Gary C. suggested possibly using part-time fire employees as a “tier three” response team, that is, only activate them when the first two teams have been called out. Mel stated it is difficult to hire part timers, as it is.

It was asked if the Fire District has done projections. Karl said no, as it is looked at as a single service area. Gary S. noted that levels of service vary between the urban and rural areas, as noted in the Matrix report. Levels of service were discussed and rated on a scale of 1-10. Mel was asked to estimate the current level of service and he replied about a 6. He was then asked if the proposed increases personnel were implemented what would the level be and he estimated a 7. The group agreed the status quo is not okay going forward. Dan noted it will be a challenge to say we are paying double and service levels are only going from 6 to 7. This will be hard to defend. Lengthy discussion followed. The challenge will be in how this message is delivered to the public.

Gary C. asked how the Fire District responds when Council does not provide full funding. Karl said they refer to the IGA. Gary S. said the District will not “backfill” funding gaps in the City, as the District has a different constituency, so fairness is the key. Randall said funding has been an ongoing issue for some time. It was acknowledged the City Council has to delegate funds across the city in as equitable manner as possible.

A question was raised about a Fire Authority’s ability to tax and bond? What are the limitations? These questions will need an answer from legal counsel. Building ownership was briefly discussed. If consolidation occurred, the city’s old and new buildings would be transferred to the District. It was noted that the proposed funding mechanism would have a bearing on the governance structure. A question was raised about the taxing authority (limitations) of the District.

A question was raised about the financial reserves of District? Karl said \$5.675 million at end of December, unaudited.

Ed asked about the times when there is a problem with our current staffing. How often does it occur? Where have we failed in the past? What are ramifications of what we have today as we look toward the future? When have we not been able to accommodate? He is simply looking for justification for funding increases. Data shows how often concurrent calls occur. There was a brief discussion on Ikon passes and how they could be taxed? It is still too soon to know.

Steve reported on site selection. City Council considered 3 sites including 840 Yampa, 10th and Lincoln, and 13th and Lincoln. Council asked to continue to look at all three sites and associated development costs to build. The least expensive for site preparation is the 10th and Lincoln site, which included adding space for city offices. Geotechnical analysis is required for other sites.

Kathy asked if there is any need for subcommittees. The group agreed not yet, but may need one on funding options, especially with regard to Bud's ideas. The group decided they needed one more meeting in order to formulate specific legal questions. Gary will invite Bob Weiss to the meeting next week, at the group's request.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 25th at 5:30 in Room 113/114 at Centennial Hall.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully,

Gary Suiter, City Manager

Fire Funding Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Summary

February 25, 2019

Committee members present: Kathy Connell, Gary Cogswell, Dan Pirrallo, Joella West, Bud Romberg, Steve Sehnert and Ed MacArthur. Karl Gills represented the Fire District via teleconference. Councilwoman Sonja Macys was also present covering Robin Crossan. Staff: Chuck Cerasoli, Deputy Fire Chief; Gary Suiter, City Manager; Kim Weber, Finance Director; Kendall Yeager, Executive Assistant to the City Manager. Joe Oakland was in the audience representing the Firefighter's Union.

Connell called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Romberg made a motion to approve the 2/18/19 minutes, Pirrallo second. Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Kathy started the meeting with a series of questions to determine where the group has consensus and where there is disagreement. The questions were as follows:

1. 9 mills won't pass in a city vote.
2. We should use a flexible approach (i.e. City funds how they want to fund, district funds how they want to fund)
3. Establishment of an "authority" or "super district" is a way to structure to ensure both city and district representation.
4. Fire funding for adequate services is a must.
5. Capital funding and operations should be separate.
6. Impact on commercial needs to be addressed.

The group discussed question 1; 6 members agreed, Macys was not sure. The committee began to discuss question 2. There were multiple clarifying questions to determine what this question meant. Is this different from the current structure? This option would allow the entities to remain separate, with the ability to tax separately. No poll was recorded on question 2. West mentioned a concern with timeline. If the committee recommends, and Council subsequently chooses to pursue, a consolidation and a tax to be on the ballot in November 2019, there are certain steps that need to be taken. West is concerned there wouldn't be enough time for this. Connell requested that we pause the timeline discussion until later in the process.

Ed MacArthur joined the meeting at 5:37.

Question 3 was discussed further. A "super district" would have the ability to oversee both the City fire department and Fire District, while they remain autonomous and tax at separate rates. No poll was taken on this question.

Cogswell shared with the group a proposal he drafted based on discussion with and research of Durango Fire Protection District. This proposal includes a reduced mill levy of 4.5 mills, the current contribution from the City of \$1.8 million, and a new sales tax to bridge the funding gap. Cogswell also mentioned that it took Durango several attempts to pass this arrangement. Discussion followed on governance structure, taxation, and many questions regarding an authority. The committee is not comfortable with the salability of the district having full oversight with no city representation.

There were many questions and discussion that ensued regarding legality of various proposals and ideas. It was requested that Dan Foote, City Attorney, be present at the next meeting.

There was further discussion amongst the group regarding how calls are split between the City and the Fire District. Currently it is approximately 2/3 City and 1/3 District. Romberg brought up second home owners, and mentioned that he feels they are currently not paying their share, as funding for fire is only coming from sales tax. The committee discussed how to capture revenue from second home owners.

The committee returned to the discussion of Connell's questions. Question 4 was discussed, with focus on what "adequate" means. Suiter suggested the committee look at the opposite: "Are we okay with providing inadequate fire services?" The consensus to this question was no, but there was still discomfort around the term "adequate" without a definition.

The committee discussed a concern that, if the fire department remains part of the general fund, there will be no way to increase funding. There was also discussion regarding whether or not some level of City oversight of fire services is necessary. Macy's said she does not believe it is a necessity. Connell feels the City should have some oversight.

The committee then discussed Question 5. This question was initially posed as "Should Fire Station and operations funding be kept separate?" The question was amended to read "*Capital* funding and operations should be separate." This was done to address items such as Fire Engines, Ambulances, and other equipment. The group discussed whether capital was of concern to this group. The consensus was no. Romberg expressed concern regarding capital assets being transferred to the fire district if consolidation occurs. Weber discussed the reasoning behind this decision. Connell discussed the struggle of "yours vs. mine vs. ours" and how this creates issues amongst partners.

MacArthur discussed a concern of the City requesting a tax increase to build a fire station, but having enough cash in hand to build a new City Hall. There was a discussion around this

concern, and it was determined that the City does not have cash in hand to build a new City Hall, and would not be asking for an increase in taxes for a new Fire Station and paying for a new City Hall with no tax increase. No poll was ultimately taken on this question.

Macys clarified that City Council's intention is to find a secure and stable funding source for fire, not to "get it out of the budget." She further explained that, while providing fire/ems services is a core function of municipal government, that can be done either through direct services or providing these services via another governance structure with City support.

It was further clarified that the role of this committee is not to come up with a singular solution, but to provide a recommendation and options to Council. Connell suggested that the committee ask the question "With our current ideas, combined with legal counsel, what are we able to do?"

There was further discussion on the current budget proposal. Pirrallo was concerned that there are alternatives to this budget proposal that we are not exploring. West was not comfortable with the committee questioning the budget proposal with little to no expertise in fire or fire services. Cerasoli described the national standards that dictate how Fire/EMS agencies respond to a call for service. Connell recommended that the committee first discuss governance options, including pros and cons. Pirrallo disagrees, and thinks funding mechanism will dictate governance structure. Pirrallo would like to determine a risk/value proposition, and determine the cost of the risk level the community is willing to accept. He would like to see more alternatives provided. Macy's clarified that Council assigned this committee under certain assumptions, including an acceptance of the current funding proposal. Sehnert mentioned that insurance companies look at fire department standards and performance when insuring homes. There was lengthy discussion on this topic.

Cogswell asked Weber to determine amount of revenue that can be provided with 4.5 mills on all properties in the proposed district, plus \$1.8 million from the City. This will result in \$3.8 million from the mill levy, totaling \$5.6 million with the City contribution. Romberg asked if we look at a phased approach. West appealed to the committee for a "re-do" of Mel Stewart's increase in rating services from a 6 to a 7 with increased funding.

The committee determined that they will commit to quickly determining structure of governance and options for funding, without examining the funding proposal.

The committee requested that we have legal counsel at the next meeting, including Dan Foote from the City, and Dino Ross from the district. Bob Weiss will attend the 3/18 meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4th at 3:00 in Room 113/114 at Centennial Hall.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kendall Yeager, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Fire Funding Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Summary

March 4, 2019

Committee members present: Kathy Connell, Gary Cogswell, Dan Pirrallo, Joella West, Bud Romberg, Steve Sehnert and Ed MacArthur. Karl Gills represented the Fire District.

Councilwoman Robin Crossan was also present.

Staff: Mel Stewart, Fire Chief; Chuck Cerasoli, Deputy Fire Chief; Gary Suiter, City Manager; Kim Weber, Finance Director; Kendall Yeager, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Dan Foote, City Attorney

Guests: Joe Oakland was in the audience representing the Firefighter's Union. Dino Ross was present via teleconference to answer questions regarding legal issues related to special districts.

Connell called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Connell began the meeting by discussing options for governance structure. Those options, currently, are an authority, changed IGA, and a district. Romberg asked a question related to the current IGA, which outlines an oversight committee. Does this committee currently meet? The oversight committee has not been active in Suiter's tenure. There has not been a need for this committee to meet.

Connell provided a chart of governance options as follows:

Structure	Who/How Paid?	Who Governs?	Who sits on Board?	Future Expansion
Authority	By each party, funded in own way	Selected by participating entities	Membership parties appoint	Easy
Changed IGA	Negotiable	Negotiable	No Board – oversight committee?	More difficult
District	Must have matching mills from city and existing district	District Board	Elected by voters in the district	Difficult – Requires vote and equal mills

Ross was on the phone to answer questions from the committee regarding legal issues of special districts. Ross answered a question regarding the oversight committee described above. He suggested that it does not "have any teeth" and is purely advisory at this point. It is up to the membership bodies to give this group authority.

Ross described the difference between a district and an authority. An authority is a third government entity, under state legislation. An Authority Board would have ultimate authority over City Council and the Fire District, as it related to their scope. Board members of an Authority are not elected, but are appointed by City Council and the Fire District Board. The Authority is not a taxing body.

Ross described the Estes Valley approach, which is somewhat of a “hybrid” approach. There was a question regarding dissolution of the current Fire District. The district would not necessarily need to dissolve, but a vote would need to take place to amend the scope of the district to allow for an Authority.

Connell asked Ross if he had a recommendation for the “easiest” approach. Ross said it is not the case of one being easier than another, but what will best fit the community needs. Pirrallo asked if there is an advantage to a particular governance structure in terms of ability to bond for capital. Ross explained that the member agencies of an Authority and District have the ability to bond for capital. There was a question regarding the frequency at which District seats are uncontested. Ross stated that he sees seats contested frequently in metro areas and in communities with highly engaged constituents. Rural areas sometimes are less frequently contested. Ross clarified one aspect of the special district act that might be of note, being that there is a provision in the act that allows for sub-districts to tax at different levels, when certain criteria are met. There was also clarification that an Authority can have full operational authority without taxing authority, but has the ability to establish funding needs.

There was a question regarding the option to increase the number of Board members from 5 to 7. Ross believes this is possible. District representation is based on population, so this would change the number of representatives for each.

Ross left the meeting at approximately 4:00pm.

MacArthur asked Gills if the district is fully able to cover their portion of the total costs. Yes, the district is able to cover their portion and has reserves.

There was conversation around whether or not the current IGA relationship is working. Most committee members agree that this relationship is working. City staff and City Council feel the relationship is positive and meeting needs. There is not disagreement about need between the City and Fire District, the current issue is how funding is provided to meet the needs.

There were questions and discussion of how much collaboration and communication takes place between the City and the Fire District. The current structure gives the City management and oversight of service levels. Communication occurs on a regular basis. There was further discussion around concerns for capital needs and purchases, and how to fund these needs.

Romberg is proposing the City and District remain separate and amend IGA. For funding, he recommends the City pass 3-4 mills, add an entertainment tax, and a Sin Tax to provide funding.

As the meeting came to a close, Connell asked the committee to consider: if the IGA is amended, what should be changed? Pirrallo state that he does not feel he knows the issues well enough to answer this question. There was further discussion of this concern. At the next meeting, the Committee will address any issues with IGA, and then will discuss the issue of funding.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11th at 3:00 in Room 113/114 at Centennial Hall.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kendall Yeager, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Fire Funding Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Summary

March 11, 2019

Committee members present: Kathy Connell, Gary Cogswell, Dan Pirrallo, Joella West, Bud Romberg, Steve Sehnert and Ed MacArthur. Randall Hannaway represented the Fire District. Councilwoman Robin Crossan was also present.

Staff: Chuck Cerasoli, Deputy Fire Chief; Gary Suiter, City Manager; Kendall Yeager, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Guests: Joe Oakland was in the audience representing the Firefighter's Union

Connell called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Connell requested approval of minutes from 2/25/2019 and 3/4/2019. Romberg moved, West second. None opposed.

Connell began the meeting with an announcement that she would not be leading the meeting due to a dental procedure. Cogswell will lead. She thanked all those who sent ideas for discussion today. Has everyone had a chance to read others ideas? West sent hers to Connell and not everyone had a chance to review. She reviewed her ideas with the committee.

Connell made a list of questions to determine where there is agreement among committee members:

1. No major changes to the IGA? 7/7 yes
2. Fire Authority? 7/7 potential option in the future
3. Property tax in the equation? 6/7 yes. MacArthur stated he is not fully in agreement yet and later modified his statement by consenting to a proposed 2 mil property tax increase.
4. Sin tax and/or entertainment tax in equation? 7/7 would consider this option.
5. Current funding should go to a new fire station? This item needed more discussion

Cogswell recommended the committee discuss governance structure first. Connell countered that the committee talk about funding structure first. Romberg asked Crossan what exactly City Council was looking for from this committee. Crossan said they are primarily looking for options that the committee feels are viable.

Romberg further clarified how specific the committee recommendations need to be? Crossan recommended presenting whatever the committee feels comfortable with, but more specific (i.e. tax percentages) are ideal. There was discussion of the benefits of taxes that are paid, at least in part, by visitors and second home owners. There was also discussion on the following questions:

- Do we need to be aware of the effect on commercial property? 7/7 said yes.
- Do we agree this tax should be designated for fire services, not for the general fund?
There was discussion on this topic, general consensus was yes.

Further discussion needs to take place on what an entertainment tax covers and what it doesn't and what a sin tax is. Connell is not in favor of including a lift tax for an entertainment tax. She believes there should be a larger discussion about lift tax, and when and how to try to pass one, if at all. Romberg doesn't believe there should be an entertainment tax without a lift tax. The committee was in general agreement on this item. MacArthur stated that he doesn't want to increase sales tax, he wants to reprioritize current sales tax dollars. The entire committee agrees that 9 mils is too high, effectively eliminating inclusion into the district.

Connell asked the committee to identify where the current gaps are in the proposal? The committee needs to vet sin tax more fully. What would this cover? Same with entertainment tax. Who are the opponents? There was clarification on whether the committee is discussing a tax on food in restaurants? This is not on the table. Romberg doesn't think there would be much opposition to an entertainment tax. Connell thinks there would be a lot of opposition to an entertainment tax. There was discussion on how a lift ticket would work with a season pass, especially the Ikon Pass which can be purchased in a number of different locations.

There was further discussion on the purview of the committee. There was significant discussion on the estimates and pie charts sent by Weber. The proposed budget is still an area of concern for the committee. Fire staff will present more on the budget to the committee on March 18. There was further discussion on "core services." Tiered and phased variations are also options for the committee to consider. The committee should consider "Is it fair, is it saleable?" when making a recommendation.

Connell will create a grid sheet for the options that are currently on the table. There also needs to be a conversation on funding for a fire station. There was discussion on the Steamboat 700/Brynn Grey property. How would annexation affect the fire district? Hannaway will have to check.

Connell requested that Bob Weiss be sent meeting minutes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18th at 3:00 at Centennial Hall.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kendall Yeager, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Fire Funding Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Summary

March 18, 2019

Committee members present: Kathy Connell, Gary Cogswell, Joella West, Bud Romberg, Steve Sehnert and Ed MacArthur (via phone). Randall Hannaway represented the Fire District Councilwoman Robin Crossan was also present.

Staff: Mel Stewart, Fire Chief; Chuck Cerasoli, Deputy Fire Chief; Gary Suiter, City Manager; Kim Weber, Finance Director; Kendall Yeager, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Dan Foote, City Attorney

Guests: Joe Oakland was in the audience representing the Firefighter's Union. Bob Weiss attended to represent the group opposed to the original proposal.

Connell called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Connell began the meeting by reviewing the meeting agenda. The committee began with a presentation from the Fire Department covering operations and systems.

Cerasoli presented staffing plans and reviewed the types of work the Fire Department does including fire suppression, EMS response, swift water rescue, Hazardous Material Response, and fire prevention services.

There was a question regarding alarm systems, and whether or not the Fire Department collects fees for false alarms. There is a fee structure in place for multiple calls to the same address. However, we have never had to bill for this service.

The Fire Department also provides public safety and education programs. However, there is no designated funding for this work. It is currently done by on-staff personnel when it is feasible.

The presentation also reviewed call numbers and concurrent call situations. The staffing structure was reviewed. There was a question regarding how/when breakeven happens with adding additional employees vs. overtime. There is a certain amount of overtime planned and budgeted each year. There isn't a hard rule on where breakeven would happen, the largest variable is other costs associated with additional staff, such as fringe benefits.

There was also discussion around the structure of the call-in systems.

Cerasoli showed a brief video on industry staffing standards for career fire departments, demonstrating our current staffing structure is below industry standards. Cerasoli also explained reasoning for sending fire engines on EMS calls.

Following Cerasoli's presentation Mel presented the current Fire Department strategic plan.

Weber then presented the 6 year projected budget. There was further discussion on staffing whether phased staffing increases are possible.

Hannaway answered the question asked at the last meeting about the effect of the potential West Steamboat annexation on the Fire District revenues. He states that the property is zoned as agriculture land, so there would be very little effect on revenues. He also discussed the ability for the Fire District to cover their portion of a new station. Overall, the committee is concerned about this.

There was a question regarding which party (city or district) is getting a "good deal" from the IGA. Suiter answered that IGAs should ideally be a win-win for both parties, and not necessarily a good deal for one party over another.

Bob Weiss joined the meeting to discuss the "opposition" to the original proposal. Weiss discussed how he became involved in the initial discussion, and the significant concern of business owners due to the Gallagher Amendment. His personal belief is that the City should remain a party in providing fire services. There is remaining concern of how fire services are governed. He stated that, with many caveats, there will likely be more support for the current proposal than with the previous proposal.

Finally, the committee again discussed where there is agreement and disagreement among members. There is not 100% consensus on sales tax or entertainment tax. It was determined that a property tax of no more than 2 mills has the best chance of passing. The committee reviewed the pie charts provided by Weber and decided to eliminate options A and C. Options B, D, and E are still on the table. D would need variations for full support.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 1 at 3:00 in Room 113/114 at Centennial Hall. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kendall Yeager, Executive Assistant to the City Manager