

**SPECIAL MEETING OF STEVENSON CITY COUNCIL, FD2 COMMISSIONERS, AND SKAMANIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**To review the Stevenson Fire Hall Strike Team Final Report  
June 16, 2016  
7:00 p.m., City Hall**

1. Call to Order at 7:09 PM
2. **STEVENSON FIRE HALL STRIKE TEAM PRESENTATION - SHUMAKER** presented an overview of the work performed by the Stevenson Fire Hall Strike Team, site selection criteria utilized, and the final report and committee recommendations. He added, due to the sensitive nature of the proposed sites, information on specific sites is not in the public report but is available to Council members to review in Executive Session. He then introduced each section of the report and highlighted key information. He indicated the proposed physical structure is approximately 11,000 sq.ft., compared to their current location which is approximately 4,300 sq.ft. He gave historical context of the current Fire Hall, with land acquired in 1912 and the current Fire Hall built in 1967. He discussed the 2011 incident in the current Fire Hall which did \$600 damage to a fire engine and \$20,000 damage to the building. At the time, the EMS and Hospital District needs did not align with the needs of the Stevenson Fire Department. He further explained each section which resulted in 31 evaluation criteria being used to evaluate 52 potential sites to arrive at the list of top viable sites.

R. Farris commented the process was eye opening and praised the Planning Director's work on the final report. He further commented the staff report will serve as a valuable tool when applying for funding to move the project forward.

M. Repar urged Council members to consider any new fire hall should be built well away from the railroad tracks, in the event of a rail emergency, such as the one which recently happened in Mosier, Oregon.

Sheriff **BROWN** commented the Sheriff department participated in the process because they have a need to expand their emergency response and communication center and feels they can cooperatively share space with the Fire department and EMS. The Sheriff department remains supportive of the Fire Departments needs and efforts towards building a new and improved headquarters.

P. Nicholson commented the Hospital District's position may have changed from the last study and believes there may now be support for changing their previous position on the consolidation proposal. **WEISSFELD** shared her frustration in the hospital district's lack of interest in partnering earlier in this process. **GRISWOLD** commented the fire district was unsuccessful in getting hospital district board members to respond to previous invitations to participate in the process. He also added that in the event of a sufficient earthquake, the current building would collapse on the engines and strand the area without any emergency response vehicles at all. **SHUMAKER** added the concern is included in the 31 criteria used to evaluate the proposed sites and that same selection criteria could be used to reevaluate the list of potential sites in the event the Hospital District / EMS wants to get involved.

**COX** asked the Council if they wanted authorize purchase of a new piece of property at this time. **WEISSFELD** commented she wanted to know if the Hospital District is on board with

the project before authorizing land purchase. **MUTH** stressed the need to move forward and asked **P. Nicholson** for an estimated timeline to confirm intentions with his Board members. There was continued general discussion about how the next steps would proceed if the Hospital District asked to become involved. **P. Nicholson** summarized by saying the burden to catch up with this project, should the Hospital District board members ask to become involved at this stage of the project, is on them, and his public comments should not delay the Council's action at this meeting.

**HOGAN** commented that the previous EMS Chief proposed the Hospital District might consider building a satellite building on the Fire Hall site should a site of sufficient size be identified. There was continued general discussion about how the Hospital District participation might impact the site acquisition progress. **M. Repar** commented a short delay in action now, may have larger financial benefits to the project later. **R. May** commented one large challenge to the project is to make a visually appealing and functional design which will attract community support for the investment and put the project in the best position to obtain funding.

**HOGAN** asked City Council to be given some time to meet with **P. Nicholson** and the EMS Commissioners to further explore the possibility of bringing them on-board to the benefit of the project and offered to bring an update to the next City Council meeting.

3. **ADJOURNMENT** at 7:36 PM