

**MEETING MINUTES
MARYSVILLE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
August 4, 2026 – 9 AM – Zoom (remote only)**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Muller called the August 4, 2026, MFD board workshop to order at 9:01 AM.

The following were in attendance on Zoom:

Board of Directors

Steve Muller
Rick Ross
Tonya Christoffersen
Mark James

Staff Members:

Ned Vander Pol, Fire Chief
Jeff Cole, Assistant Chief of Operations
Tom Maloney, Assistant Chief Fire Marshal
Chelsie McInnis, Finance Director
Kim Adams, Human Resources Director
Jennett Nielson, Deputy Chief of Operations
Mike Davis, IT Manager
Taylor Matsumura, Administrative Assistant

Guest:

Brian Park, SRFR Fire Chief

DISCUSSION

Consolidation considerations between the Marysville Fire District and Snohomish Regional Fire Authority.

Chief Vander Pol briefed the board on potential consolidation with SRFR, referencing the approved internal letter of intent.

- He noted that preliminary discussions are underway, and the next step is forming a regional integration committee.
- The identified opportunities suggest consolidation would benefit both the community and staff, supporting moving forward in the process.

Board member Christoffersen asked for additional insight into the metrics used to evaluate community benefits. Chief Vander Pol highlighted measures such as unit reliability, improved service delivery, response times, available resources, community risk reduction, fire prevention and education, and medical programs designed to reduce call volume and use resources more efficiently.

Approved Initials *NVP*

Chief Vander Pol also noted challenges in retaining experienced fire personnel, with regionalization offering advantages such as reduced competition, improved organizational appeal, and enhanced employee development. Given current financial and political conditions, continuing as a standalone organization would be increasingly difficult.

- Chief Vander Pol reiterated the importance of continuing consolidation discussions for the benefit of the community and the Local. He noted that the department is operationally prepared to move into Phase 4 pending board direction. Several city council members will be out of town in August, and Board Chair Muller emphasized the need for the full board to move thoughtfully through the process. He expressed support for consolidation given the current outlook of the fire service industry.
- Board member James commended Chief Park and staff for the clear and well-structured regional transition flight path documentation, noting its defined timeline and thoughtful planning. He expressed appreciation for the work completed so far and voiced support for the goal of expanding services while lowering taxes for the community.

Chief Brian Park introduced himself and reaffirmed shared goals of expanding services and creating cost-saving and additional opportunities for employees.

- He emphasized benefits of economy of scale, noting that a larger, regional organization provides a deeper bench in fire, EMS, logistics, and analytics.
- Chief Park acknowledged inevitable growing pains but stressed that responsible governance requires seeking greater organizational resilience. He outlined current pressures—including insurability challenges, wall times, financial strain, and understaffing—which are expected to intensify.
- He noted commonalities across shared borders and personnel initiatives that could benefit both communities. Looking ahead, he highlighted that the future of EMS involves expanding community programs, reducing call volume, using resources responsibly, and partnering with state and government stakeholders. As he stated, “we are an agency that is looking to be more resilient for the sake of the community.”

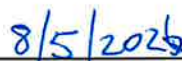
Board Chair Muller noted that both Marysville Fire District and Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue are financially strong, fiscally responsible organizations, making continued consolidation discussions logical and beneficial for north Snohomish County. He anticipated additional meetings beginning in September or October 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further action required the August 4, 2026, workshop meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.



Ned Vander Pol
District Secretary



Date approved

Approved Initials _____