

Diane,

See following. Jim, Darrol and I met with the Mukilteo mayor, Fire Chief and city administrator in Feb. 2025 to discuss the issues around RFA annexation. We were careful to emphasize we were there only as concerned citizens and didn't represent the city in any way. Mayor Marine was clear that he understood the financial pressures around fire/EMS but didn't like the feeling the RFA was trying to strong arm them into annexing. He said he was open to alternatives, such as exploring an arrangement with Edmonds (and maybe other neighboring cities) to create some sort of mini-RFA they could have more control over.

I shared Mukilteo's viewpoint with Rosen and a couple of our Councilmembers, but it didn't go anywhere. It was pretty clear Mike and the majority on Council were convinced no other option other than annexation would help get Edmonds out of the huge financial bind we were in (and annexation was only part of the solution from their perspective).

Regarding your thoughts about trying to raise the issue of de-annexation at this point, I don't think the numbers would work. However, if the RFA's proposed \$430 million initiative passes, the calculus may change as taxpayers feel the heavy weight of the RFA on their wallets.

Hope this helps.

Dave