

**SOUTH WHIDBEY
FIRE/EMS
SPECIAL MEETING -
BOARD WORKSHOP
5579 Bayview Road, Langley,
Washington
April 16th, 2020 – 2:00 PM**

<https://global/gotomeeting.com/join/248752965>

Minutes

Attendance: Chairman Mestemacher, Vice Chairman Noblet, Commissioner Metz, Chief Palmer.

In Audience: Liz Loomiz, AJ Chippendale, 3 additional unidentified callers.

All were present via a virtual Go-To Meeting.

- I. **Call to Order.** Chairman Mestemacher called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda.** Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Metz seconded.
- III. **Levy Lid Lift discussion.**

Chief Palmer stated that for the past few years, a levy lid lift has been a topic of discussion. Liz Loomis and AJ Chippendale, the District's public affairs consultants, have been invited to this Board Workshop to help answer any questions from the Board.

Chief Palmer recommends a thirty cent per thousand levy lid lift. A thirty cent lid lift would provide one engine company being on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This equates to eight full-time firefighters. If the Board chose to enter a twenty five cent lid lift onto the ballot, those funds would provide a three firefighter engine crew. The primary election in August is the preferred ballot date, so that the District would receive the lid lift funds in February 2021. Any election after that pushes the District receiving the lid lift funds in 2022.

The Board had some questions for Chief Palmer and Liz Loomis, including:

- How long will this levy lid lift be valid for?
- Where does our levy rate stand in comparison to other Fire Districts in the state?
- What do the staff and Board members feel the effect of the current economy will be on the lid lift?
- How do we maintain staffing and recruitment?
- What does the Ballot language look like?

Chief Palmer stated that by asking for a thirty cent lid lift now, we are asking for what the District needs to provide a high level of service. Twenty-one to twenty-three cents of the suggested lid lift would go toward staffing and personnel, and the remaining seven to nine cents would be spent on Capital assets.

Palmer also notified the Board that we are wrapping up our 2017-2018 Audit and we have been notified that we will be issued a "clean audit". The SAO is recommending that we add another layer onto how we reconcile our internal funds at year end. Liz Loomis congratulated Chief Palmer and stated that we will include this information in our next news release.

Chief Palmer reminded the Board that our next meeting will be on Friday, April 24th, at 10am.

IV. **Conclude.** Chairman Mestemacher concluded the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Sarah Pedersen,
District Secretary