

## **Fire District #1 Liaison**

### **FIRE DISTRICT #1 - PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING HELD THURSDAY NOV 12<sup>TH</sup>**

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, the Fire Commissioners met to discuss and approve the Fire District #1 budget for 2010.

The budget process for all government agencies is strange to say the least. The Fire District must make an estimate of next year's revenues based on anticipated property taxes generated by the assessed value (AV) of all property in the district, plus revenues from new construction, timber harvest taxes, school charges and investment income. The budget, by law, must be submitted to the County by the end of November, however, the County's actual report of next year's AV doesn't have to be submitted until the end of December. So, the Commissioners do the best they can, knowing that they may have to make some changes once the final County numbers are received at the end of December.

#### **KEY ELEMENTS OF THE APPROVED BUDGET:**

- **REVENUE:** The Fire District has asked the County to levy taxes in the amount of over \$1.6 million dollars for 2010 based on property assessed values of just over \$1.1 billion dollars. This should yield about \$1.35 million for fire protection and another \$309,000 for EMS.
- **EXPENDITURES:** The Commissions estimate that in 2010 the fire district will need about \$1.45 million for fire protection and about \$318,000 for EMS for a total of about \$1.77 million dollars. If you want to compare this to last years budget, the estimates for 2009 were \$1.15 million for fire protection and \$305,600 for EMS for a total of \$1.18 million dollars.

#### **NOTABLE EXPENDITURES:**

- Hire one new paid firefighter to fill a position that has been vacant for over 18 months.
- Hire a full time mechanic to maintain the fleet of over 40 vehicles. Currently the mechanic is a part time job.
- Buy one new brush truck; a purchase that had been postponed for over a year.
- Funds to replace all breathing apparatus (SCBA) which have been declared obsolete.
- Funds to begin replacement of two water tenders.
- Substantial increases in insurance costs.
- Funds to advertise for and hire a new Fire Chief. The District will start advertising for a new Chief in January and hope to have the position filled to coincide with the current Chief's retirement date of July 16, 2010.

## **RESOLUTIONS PASSED AS REQUIRED BY LAW:**

The Commissioners passed five resolutions for the new budget year.

- Two resolutions were passed which declared that there is a “substantial need” to increase the budget by 1% over last years budget for fire and EMS. This type of resolution is normally not required if the cost of living index increases, but this year, the cost of living index was minus 1.8%.
- Three resolutions were passed, one for fire, one for EMS, and one for a combination of fire and EMS, which officially requests the County to collect the taxes based on the budget for 2010 for a fire levy rate of \$1.20 per \$1,000 of AV and an EMS levy rate of \$.27 per \$1,000 of AV.

**You are encouraged to attend the Fire Commissioners meetings. The agenda always contains an opportunity for public comments.**

**The next two meetings will be:**

December 7<sup>th</sup>, Monday, at 7:00 PM at Station #4 in Tum Tum

December 21<sup>st</sup>, Monday, at 7:00 PM at Headquarters in Clayton near Station #1

**Fire District website:** <http://scfpd1.com/index.htm>

Bob Given

Fire District #1 Liaison