

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

Camano Island Fire & Rescue (CIFR)

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

November 7th, 2022

4:30 PM

MINUTES

Chair Trembl called the **Special Fire Commissioners Meeting** to order at 4:30 p.m.

Comm Yadon led us in the flag salute

Those in attendance were:

Commissioners

Janice Trembl

Jerry Evans

Kelly Yadon

Kim Williams

Paul Williams

Fire Department Staff

Fire Chief Levon Yengoyan

AC Jason Allen (via Zoom)

Amy Martin, Board Secretary

Regan Olsen, VP Local 3438

Contractors:

Bronlea Mishler, PIO

Kristen Williams, Nineteen Eleven Consulting (via Zoom)

Liz Loomis, Liz Loomis Public Affairs (LLPA)

Public-none

MOVED TO APPROVE the Agenda

1st: Commissioner K. Williams 2nd: Commissioner: Yadon

Discussion: NONE

APPROVED: Unanimous

Kristen Williams, Nineteen Eleven Consulting

Presented October 2022 Levy Survey- Quantitative and Qualitative Results and Recommendations.
(Presentation available)

Levy Topics Discussed:

- Levy Timing—Loomis recommends November 2023. We have one chance to pass the Levy.
 - Challenges to Service---Educate regarding what the money is going to be used for.
- Loomis Noted Survey Observations:
 - Union Image—perception of firefighters is important; survey highlighted image challenges
 - Funding- survey highlighted that people may not understand funding and that increases in assessed values (AVs) don't proportionally equal an increase in taxes.
 - Disparity in Geography: South end seeks to have service equity.
- Levy Language: City of Oak Harbor was able to write a Levy proposal that was more readable. We should work with the prosecuting attorney to have more readable ballot language.

- Levy Rate: Discussion surrounding the rate that should be sought and what amount will support the budget. \$1.50, \$1.35, \$1.25 was proposed and considered.
- We're still developing the strategic plan and it will inform how the funds would be used.
 - Levy would support plan to add units, remodel station 5, add training officer, EMS admin position, and reestablish the community resource paramedic.
 - Current bond limits capital improvements until it's paid off. Levy could allow for Station 5 improvements without a bond as well as eliminate resident fees for transports.
- Levy Strategies Discussed:
 - Consider gradual increase from .83 cents to \$1.50 to reduce impact to taxpayers but still provide services is a good selling point.
 - Could go to \$1.25 then let them know you're coming out in 2 years for .25 cents.
 - Strategic plan should dictate what is done but need to also understand what your community can support financially.
 - Loomis' Long-Term Clients who have never failed a levy are models to examine:
 - Benton Co. District 4 and Clark County District 3.
 - There are components on their websites about how they are funded and explaining Fire and EMS levies.
 - Next Lid Lift could be a simple one-year lift. Communicate that we will come back in the future for X and Y and we'll be specific about what that funds and what we're doing it to reduce impact to taxpayers.
 - \$1.25 may be a good compromise.
 - Try for \$1.50 in two years.
 - Economic concerns may drive a blended plan.
 - Wages will need to be raised.
 - Interest rates are going up. You should try and pay cash for apparatus/improvements
 - Banked Capacity: anything that we were able to collect but we did not. We can come back in 3 years and ask for that. You collect what is needed and come back in the future and take the remainder if needed.
- Plan:
 - December: Standards of Cover and Strategic Plan
 - A consensus on levy rate amount that we want to pursue needs to be decided so the Loomis team can work on key messages. In December will need to get organized. Would like a number to target after the new year.
 - Media Release Templates and Community Organizations
 - Public Outreach—community presentations and coalition building
 - Advertise that Chief and Board are available for PR circuit
 - Annual Report
 - Newsletter articles
 - Educational and Messaging: *Why we are deserving and how we are funded-* financial messages
 - Branding
 - Communications Committee—Fire Chief and executive staff, 2 citizen members, Union rep, etc.

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Camano Island Fire & Rescue
Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes
November 7th, 2022

- Dates:
 - Board would meet on the resolution and pass it on June 12th.
 - Could carry over to June 26th meeting
 - Last day to file is August 1st.
 - Consider and pass motion 2-3 months before its due.
- Historically we've had a citizens group that was a "Friends of"; having one or two of them on our communications group is key.

Chair Treml moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Martin
Fire Board Secretary