

Kittitas County Fire Protection District NO. 1

RECEIVED

Resolution No. 01-20-21a

JAN 29 2021

(Special-Multi Year-Permanent)

Kittitas County Auditor

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON APRIL 27, 2021, OF A PROPOSITION LIFTING THE DISTRICT'S PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE TO \$1.20 PER \$1,000.00 OF ASSESSED VALUATION AND ESTABLISHING A LIMIT FACTOR OF ONE HUNDRED FIVE PERCENT SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS.

Background:

WHEREAS it is the judgement of the Board of Commissioners of the District that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District that fire and emergency services be provided by the District.

WHEREAS the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing these services necessitate the continued expenditure of revenues for personnel, operations and equipment at a level that cannot be sustained by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of .93 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as constrained by the one percent limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010.

WHEREAS the levy rate was \$1.18 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property as recently as 2018 and has decreased an average of 8.3 percent per year over the last 3 years due to new construction and increased district valuation.

WHEREAS the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 have had the 4 highest call volumes in the history of Kittitas County Fire Protection District No. 1.

WHEREAS the current staffing for the district is 1 Full-Time Chief that works 5 days a week. The rest of a response is made up entirely of volunteers.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners have approved a 5-year plan that includes adding a part-time Administrative Captain to work the Chief's days off and one overlap day to cover calls for service, assist in training the volunteers and other administrative duties.

WHEREAS, in approving the district's 5-year plan, the Board of Commissioners have also prioritized apparatus replacement and maintenance, station security and general maintenance and obtaining and maintaining safe and efficient equipment.

Resolution: NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Kittitas County Fire Protection District NO. 1, Kittitas County, Washington as follows,

Section 1. In order to provide fire protection, prevention and emergency medical services in the District, it is necessary for the District to obtain, operate and maintain emergency Fire and Medical vehicles and facilities, staffed seven days a week by a Full Time Chief/Emergency Medical Technician and adding a Part Time Administrative Captain/Emergency Medical Technician to cover the Chief's days off to provide 7 day a week coverage and equip both employees and volunteer firefighters with suitable firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

Section 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing adequate life protection services, facilities and equipment as described in Section 1, and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services, the District shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010 and levy beginning in 2021 and collecting in 2022, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing adequate life protection services, facilities and equipment as described in Section 1, and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services beyond 2021, the District has determined that the limit factor shall be 105 percent to attempt to keep the actual levy rate as close as possible to \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value in the subsequent years 2023-2027. The funds raised under this levy shall not supplant existing funds used for the purposes described in Section 1.

Section 4. The 2026 levy base shall serve as the District's tax levy base to calculate subsequent levy limits per RCW 84.55.050 (3).

Section 5. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on April 27, 2021, in conjunction with the state special election to be held the same date, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be increased to \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2021 and be adjusted by annual increases of 105% for the following 5 years, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The auditor of Kittitas County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, is hereby requested to call such a special election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Name of Jurisdiction: Kittitas County Fire Protection #1

Proposition#: Proposition No. 1

Short Title Multiple Year Levy Lid Lift

Ballot Title: The Board of Kittitas County Fire Protection District #1 adopted resolution No. 01-20-21a concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund district operations and hire a part-time Administrative Captain in accordance with the District's 5-year plan.

This Proposition authorizes the District to increase its regular property tax levy to \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2022 and authorizes a limit factor of 105% for each of the five succeeding years to provide adequate funding to maintain and add to fire protection and emergency medical service levels. The 2027 levy base shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations as provided by RCW 84.55

Should this proposition be : Approved Rejected

Section 6. The board hereby assigns to the Fire Chief or designee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters/ approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 7. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the Fire Chief and legal counsel as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 8. The Chief is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or description to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 9. The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than February 26th, 2021, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the April 27th, 2021 election.

Section 10. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 11. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

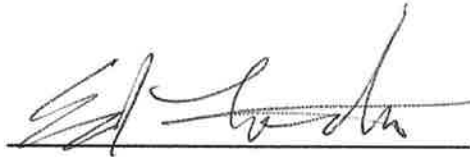
Section 12. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Kittitas County Fire Protection District NO. 1, Kittitas County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the 20th day of January 2021, the following commissioners being present and voting:

Craig George- Board Chair



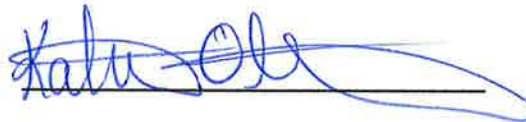
Ed Foster- Commissioner



Jason Badgerow-Commissioner



Katie Olive-Secretary



Brandon Schmidt- Chief

