



## KING COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO.16

7220 NE 181<sup>st</sup> Street  
KENMORE, WA 98028

BUSINESS: 425-354-1780 FAX: 425-354-1781

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### FIRE DISTRICT BENEFIT CHARGE

#### REPORT OF PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW AND ESTABLISH BENEFIT CHARGES AND OTHER REVENUE SOURCES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017

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At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on October 4, 2016, the Board set October 18, 2016, beginning at 5:30pm as the date and time for a public hearing to review and establish the Fire District benefit charge for Year 2017, as required by RCW 52.18.060 (2). The Board also set a simultaneous hearing on the District's Year 2017 other revenue sources as required by RCW 84.55.120.

Notice of the public hearing to be held on October 18, 2016, was posted at the District's Headquarters Station 51, on the Northshore Fire Department website, and in local media outlets the Bothell-Kenmore Reporter and Shoreline Area News.

**October 18, 2016**

#### **I. OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Eric Adman opened the Revenue Source Hearing pursuant to RCW 84.55.120 and the Benefit Charge Hearing pursuant to RCW 52.18.060 at 5:31 PM.

Persons in attendance were Commissioners Eric Adman, Carolyn Armanini, Don Ellis, Dave Maehren, and Kae Peterson, Chief Jim Torpin, Deputy Chief Eric Magnuson, Legal Counsel Kinnon Williams, Finance Specialist Dawn Killion, Board Secretary Kate Hansen, and members of the public.

Chair Adman read the following opening statement:

"This hearing is being held for the purpose of meeting the requirements of two separate state laws. RCW 84.55.120, Public Hearing-Revenue Sources-Adoption of Tax Increase RCW 52.18.060 (2), Public Hearing-Required-Report-Benefit Charge to be filed-Notification to Property Owners

The intent of the hearing is to provide the public with information related to the expenses and revenues of the District and to offer an opportunity for public comment in reference to revenues or tax increases that may be proposed.

Following a report on the current year budget and staff's recommendation for the 2016 budget and associated revenue requirements there will be an opportunity for questions and comments."

## II. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE FIRE DISTRICT & PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 DRAFT BUDGET

Fire Chief Torpin provided the financial report and information on the proposed 2017 Budget, including staff recommendations for Benefit Charge and Levy rates.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comment section of the public hearing was opened at 6:04pm

Lake Forest Park resident Mike Dee addressed the Board with several comments and questions regarding the 2017 budget and revenue sources. The following are the comments made and questions asked by Mr. Dee along with any response provided by Chief Torpin.

- Stated his appreciation for the Board's consideration to hold off on a Levy lid lift.
- Asked for clarification about expense increases such as COLA, and health insurance.  
*Chief Torpin stated the district is in mediation with the labor group and the actual costs for labor and benefits cannot be determined until that process is concluded.*
- Encouraged Commissioners to avoid legal fees and arbitration costs if possible.
- Stated \$150,000 for bathroom remodel at Station 57 was unclear and non-specific.  
*Chief Torpin stated the bathrooms at Station 57 are in need of remodeling. There are several options that range in cost from \$60,000 to 150,000. The options are under review and a formal proposal will be developed and presented to the Board later in the year.*
- Asked for clarification on what is considered as "unanticipated" income.  
*Chief Torpin stated it was simply the monies collected that exceed the established revenue budget.*
- On new construction, requested the Board consider raising permit fees to help cover costs and ease burden on tax payers.  
*Chief Torpin clarified that new construction actually helps offset costs for the taxpayers, provided additional facilities or staffing is not required to provide service.*
- Inquired what the remaining balance of the 2009 GO Bonds.  
*Chief Torpin stated the bond principle is approximately 13,000,000 and is scheduled to be retired in 2027.*
- On the G.O. Bonds excess levy assessment, he asked if we are paying on principal versus interest with the levy assessment.  
*Chief Torpin stated both interest and principal are paid each year. The Chief further pointed out that proceeds from the 2014 sale of the former fire station were used to buy down the principal that was scheduled for retirement in 2028.*
- Inquired how GASB 45 is used to calculate reserve fund amount for post-retirement benefits.  
*Chief Torpin stated the LEOFF 1 medical benefit liability is determined by an actuarial formula prescribed by GASB 45.*

With no other citizens wishing to address the Board, at 6:22pm Commissioner Peterson moved to close the public comment period and continue the public hearing to the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 1, 2016. Commissioner Armanini seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 5 to 0.

**November 1, 2016**

#### **IV. RE-OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Chair Eric Adman re-opened the Revenue Source Hearing pursuant to RCW 84.55.120 and the Benefit Charge Hearing pursuant to RCW 52.18.060 at 5:08pm.

Following the re-opening of the hearing, Lake Forest Park resident Mike Dee made the following public comment:

- There has been lots of new construction in the jurisdiction but rates are still being raised. Could the new construction not have covered the other rate raises?

Commissioner Adman explained that tax levy is limited by statute to no more than 1% of the prior year. This forms the bulk of the revenue, and then the fire benefit charge is determined to make up remainder of what is needed to fund the service levels.

*Commissioner Peterson arrived at 5:10pm*

Commissioner Maehren added that even though the district is faced with higher costs in multiple areas, the tax rate is only being raised by 1% on existing tax payers.

***Commissioner Armanini moved to set the Fire Benefit Charge for 2017 at an amount not to exceed 2.9 million dollars. Commissioner Ellis seconded. Motion passed 5-0.***

***At 5:17PM Commissioner Armanini moved to close the hearing on Budget Benefit Charge and other Revenue Sources. Commissioner Ellis seconded. Motion passed 5-0.***

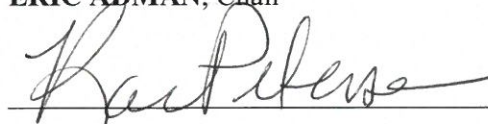
Commissioner Adman closed the public hearing at 6:20 pm.

DATED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016.

#### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



**ERIC ADMAN, Chair**



**KAE PETERSON, Member**

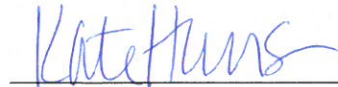


**CAROLYN ARMANINI, Member**

  
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**DON ELLIS**, Member

  
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**DAVE MAEHREN**, Member

**ATTEST**

  
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**KATE HANSEN**, Secretary

King County Fire Protection District No. 16

Adopted at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners on November 15, 2016.