



Pierce County
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT No.17
Headquarters – Station 170
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**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FOR PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 17**

June 15, 2015

The special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners for South Pierce Fire and Rescue 17 held at 302 McNaught Street South, Roy WA 98580, was called to order at 5:00 p.m. This special meeting is held to conduct a mid-year budget workshop. Chairman Guenther led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner John Christian, Chairman Mark Guenther, Commissioner Dan Morris, Commissioner John Sebastian and Commissioner Olivia Werner.

FC Vellias, DC Chris Grant, DS Brenda Murphy, as well as a few firefighters.

Commissioner Guenther turned the floor over to FC Vellias. FC Vellias stated that there would have to be some tough decisions made tonight. FC Vellias also stated that this should come as no surprise. At the budget hearing in the fall it was discussed that there could be a shortfall of revenue. He asked the Board at the November workshop if there should be cuts made then or if the District should deplete the reserve fund. At the Budget Hearing it was stated that the District would spend every dime in the reserve fund before we laid anyone off. The intent was to keep employees as long as possible. The District reiterated this at the March board meeting where the Board authorized the District to draw the reserve down to help cover expenses and again at the "All District Meeting" held on April 23, 2015. The District has dissolved the Shift Commander program to reduce overtime and Acting pay and has contracted with a mechanic to reduce maintenance costs of our apparatus. He reviewed the Budget vs Actual report and pointed out the lines that are over budget (engine replacement and overtime), but also advised that the bottom line budget is 48% spent, which is where we should be for half way through the year.

FC Vellias advised that he received the AV projections for 2016 and our district increases only 3.1%. There has been a significant drop in transport revenue and we are not transporting as much.

AC Yount advised that there is a 9% drop in transports and 29% of our medical aid calls result in AMAs/RORs. This is trending with surrounding districts. Could be because with OBAMA care people have higher deductibles and use us for non-emergent situations. Could be patients are now seeing a primary care physician. We are having more calls that are not transports. Also, doctors at hospitals are saying more patients can stay at home. FC Vellias stated that some could be because of high deductible insurance plans and patients don't have the money to pay deductible so they call us. \$150,000 decrease is a realistic number for transport revenue this year.

Commissioner Guenther asked where community paramedicine fits into this? Commissioner Werner asked if we could transport to an urgent care. AC Yount advised that Paramedicine is not funded yet and there is a proposal that has just passed legislation to transport to urgent cares, but we are not there yet.

FC Vellias reported that last year at this time we received \$430,000 in timber tax, transport revenue, fire protection, contracts with Town of Eatonville, etc. and this year we are at \$340,000. The 2016 tax revenue increase is projected at 3.1% and new construction won't help a lot.

FC Vellias presented his 2015 Mid-year Budget Review (see attached). He advised that:

- The district is unable to sustain our current staffing with the slow recovery of assessed valuation.
- AV is still \$500,000 less than in 2008
- Trying to operate on a budget that is \$1,000,000 less than it was seven (7) years ago.
- Significant erosion in transport revenue

South Pierce
Fire and Rescue District 17

Special Meeting

(The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a mid-year budget workshop)



To be held:

*Monday, June 15, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m.
Station 171 – 302 McNaught
Roy, WA 98580*


Chairman Mark Guenther


ATTEST: Brenda Murphy
District Secretary