

GRAYS HARBOR FIRE DISTRICT #2
Central Park Fire Station

2010 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

12 November 2009

6:00 PM

Central Park Station #31

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Budget Public Hearing was called to order by Commissioner Nick Dunjic at 6:00PM. Present were Commissioners Paul Dean and Dale Hensley, District Secretary Teri Scherer, and Chief Dan Prater; John Delia Jr, Josh Ambrose, Tony Broten, Chris Franks, Mike Hubbard, James Kuchciak, Deputy Chief Larry Willis and Frank Scherer.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Chief Prater gave the 2010 Budget presentation. Read our vision and mission statement. Discussed the Services provided, the Districts priorities, he showed total incidents over the last 10 years, presented the history of Fire and EMS Levy rates for the last 15 years. Grafts showed Assessed Expense EMS Values vs Tax Dollars Collected.

The proposed 2010 Budget Revenue is \$1,214,918.00. The Expense side broken down by category was Personnel costs equaled \$839,328.32 plus Operations costs \$375,589.68, balancing the budget at \$1,214,918.00.

2010 Wish List was presented to the Commissioners. Discussion followed.

A letter from DC Willis was read into the minutes stating his support and concerns for the coming year 2010.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Scherer is concerned about cuts in EMS funding and personnel cuts at the County level. We need to consider how the RFA proposal will affect or change things.

Commissioner Dunjic addressed these concerns stating he has the same concerns as DC Willis has. Commissioner wants to see the RFA go through. It is in the Budget for a 6th person but does not feel we should go into it January 2010. Money should be allocated for the 6th person but wait and see how things go for a while.

Commissioner Dean feels we are as solid financially as we ever were. He wants to see a 6th person hired ASAP, it is written in the budget and we need it. A commitment letter was signed between the Commission and the Union and if the Budget supports the hiring we need to do it. He feels it is in the best interest of the citizens of this District to hire. He would like to give the Chief the go ahead to start the hiring process now, since it is a lengthy process.

Commissioner Dunjic is very concerned about spending money right now to hire 6th person. What if the tax dollars don't come in? Do we have the money to run the District for three months if money does not come in?

Commissioner Dean stated YES, he asked the Chief that question and Chief stated YES also. How would we deal with no dollars coming in? Would we start laying people off? Chief stated we would be paying bare bones stuff with bare bones dollars.

Chief stated it is the job of the Board to make the tough decisions, they would have to make the cuts as other places have had to do, cutting non mandatory things that do not have to be there first. Commissioner Dunjic fears we could become another District #5.

Commissioner Hensley remembers the slim days. With negotiations in the process, and not know what is going to come out of that, he does not want to see us hire a 6th person right after the first of the year. He has similar feelings as Commissioner Dunjic.

John Delia asked the Commission; "if you were not interested in hiring why did you leave the full amount in the Budget"?

Commissioner Dunjic discussed that question. Dollars are there to pay wages and benefits. Dunjic asked "if money is not there would you be willing to lay off personnel"? Delia stated that no one has ever asked them to make concessions.

James Kuchciak stated his opinion. Anthony Broten stated his opinion.

Much discussion followed concerning tax dollars and the future of that income.

Chief stated that we may have to make hard decisions in the future if things go differently. Right now we a stable and doing good and people are paying taxes.

Josh Ambrose asked what year the EMS Levy and Lid Lifts run out? Ambrose asked about future funding if we hire?

Chief Prater stated that in 2011 we must do a Lid Lift and in 2012 an EMS Levy if the RFA does not pass.


Chief Prater stated that if the RFA goes all Budgets are null and void in 2011.

No further comments.

Motion was made by Dean and seconded to adjourn the Budget Public Hearing session at 6:48PM.

Unanimously carries


Chairman of the Board


Commissioner


Commissioner


District Secretary