



Clallam County Fire District 3

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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General Lid Lift Resolution Update

Come Learn More About the Proposal!

SEQUIM, WASH. – The Board of Fire Commissioners for Clallam County Fire District 3 will consider a resolution asking voters to “lift the lid” on the general levy funding emergency services at 1:00 p.m. on July 3 at fire district headquarters (323 N. Fifth Avenue in Sequim, Wash). The public is encouraged to attend and comment on the proposal. The Board could vote on the resolution that afternoon or continue deliberations until its meeting on July 17 (at the same time and location).

“It depends on Board questions, or other questions from the community,” said Fire Chief Ben Andrews. “We want to make sure the Board has the information it needs to make an informed decision.”

Clallam County Fire District 3 has invited the public to two prior meetings to learn more about the ballot measure. The fire district has been communicating with the public for the past year about its challenges to maintain emergency service levels. It will have to draw down reserve accounts next year just to respond to call volumes, which have climbed 33 percent in the past seven years.

“We’re putting everything into boots on the ground,” said Chief Ben Andrews. “The cost of daily operations continues to rise, which leaves nothing for additional staffing, apparatus replacement or facilities maintenance.”

Voters originally approved a general levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2004. Since that time, the levy rate has fallen to \$1.26. Levy rates fall as property values rise to limit the fire district to roughly the same amount of revenue per year plus a one percent increase allowed by law.

The Board of Fire Commissioners will consider asking voters to return the levy to \$1.50 during the November General Election. The lid lift would be an additional \$5 per month (\$60 per year) for the owner of a home assessed at \$250,000. Funding would be used to maintain service levels, the fire district’s emergency preparedness program, improve staffing where possible, train personnel, and fund facility and apparatus needs.

The general levy rate is capped by law at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. One of the factors being considered is whether to link future adjustments to the Consumer Price Index.

Those unable to attend the board meetings are encouraged to contact Fire Chief Ben Andrews with comments at (360) 683-4242 or bandrews@ccfd3.org. All communication is welcome and becomes part

of the public record. More information about the levy lid lift can be found on the fire district website at www.ccf3.org.

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Since 1914 residents of Clallam County have volunteered their time and financial support to provide emergency services for the greater Sequim community. Today Clallam County Fire District 3 provides a 24-hour fire and emergency medical response to 30,000 people with a combination of volunteer, part-time, and full-time personnel. We respond to an average of 7,300 emergency calls per year, and appreciate the support from our community.