

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
July 14, 2020 (Virtual)**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Portmann called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Ryan Portmann, Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner Adam G. Rosenlund, Commissioner, Gina Blanchard-Reed, Commissioner Robert Homan, Fire Chief Pat Dale, Deputy Chief Oscar Espinosa, District Secretary Brenda Barker and Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Rosenlund moved to approve the Agenda as written. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SETTING OF RULES FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Portmann called the public hearing to order, with respect to whether a Benefit Charge shall be adopted within Graham Fire & Rescue. He advised the participants the entire public hearing is being recorded. He then stated the rules for the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ESTABLISHMENT OF BENEFIT CHARGE

Chairman Portmann called upon Fire Chief Dale who presented a summary of the proposal and the process for establishing the Benefit Charge. Chief Dale concluded his presentation.

Chairman Portmann called upon District Secretary Brenda Barker to read into the record any comments received prior to the meeting. District Secretary Barker read the following comments:

1. Stephen Ramsey via Facebook on 07/01/2020: "Having yet to drill into the details, it seems like a fair method on the face, but it may be necessary to estimate the effect of the economic slowdown on the need for services. Might be less, or more."
2. Stephen Ramsey via Facebook on 07/04/2020: "Individual homeowners who just received their property tax assessments for next year and actually looked at them, might want to look at supporting this."

District Secretary Barker stated these were the only comments received prior to the meeting and that no comments were received by email.

Chairman Portmann invited anyone wishing to make a comment regarding the benefit charge to please state their name and address, and be advised individuals will be allowed three minutes to comment, or five minutes if they represent a group.

1. Luke Wahl, representing IAFF Local 726 commented as follows: He is also a citizen of the District, so he reached out to the email address provided and

had them specifically calculate the benefit charge for his home, which fits the profile of medium value and square footage for the district. This new service benefit charge would save his family \$300 a year in taxes, coupled with the \$63 savings on homeowners insurance due to the District's insurance rating going from a 4 to a 3. He thanked the Fire Chief and administration for proposing this plan, especially with the economic times that may be coming. This could be significant for our citizens and allow them to continue to receive great service at a reduced cost. Not many agencies are doing this; this is very unique and something to be very proud of.

Chairman Portmann asked if anyone else wished to comment. Hearing none, he then asked if any Board members wished to comment. None replied.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Portmann closed the public hearing. He stated if the public has questions, they can go to www.grahamfire.org, call 253-847-8811, or email benefitcharge@grahamfire.org.

He announced the next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually, and anyone interested in attending may go to the website www.grahamfire.org for instructions on how to join the meeting by phone.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chairman Portmann thanked staff for putting this Special Meeting together, Chief Dale for his presentation and District Secretary Barker for preparing his script for conducting the public hearing.

With no further business to come before the Board, the Special Board Meeting of July 14, 2020, was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Ryan Portmann, Board Chairman

Brenda L.B. Barker, District Secretary