

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
November 9, 2020 (Virtual)**

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2021 BENEFIT CHARGE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Portmann called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

**SETTING OF RULES FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Portmann recited the Ground Rules for the public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON BENEFIT CHARGE**

**Benefit Charge Presentation**

Fire Chief Dale presented a summary of the proposal and the process for establishing the Benefit Charge.

Chairman Portmann called upon District Secretary Barker to read into the record any written comments submitted prior to the Public Hearing. She responded there were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Caller identified as Jamie, a condo owner, commented her concern over the more than \$1,000 increase she will realize under the benefit charge. She stated she voted “No” on the proposition due to the increase. Chairman Portmann responded.

Caller identified as Kyle, also a condo owner in the same complex as Jamie, commented his concern over the property tax increase from \$1,400 in 2018 to \$3,500 under the benefit charge. Chairman Portmann acknowledged his comment.

Caller identified as Jamie commented additionally that if they never do have to fight a large fire over there, it seems like a large increase for something that is only a possibility.

Chairman Portmann made a final call for public comments. There were none.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Homan addressed Kyle and Jamie’s comments and explained there will be an appeal process by which they can challenge their assessment. Chairman Portmann stated, and Fire Chief Dale confirmed, the appeal process will be posted on the website. Battalion Chief Jensen added that each property owner will receive a letter stating the process, how to make contact, and how to file an appeal via the website.

**Chairman Portmann closed the Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m.**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Portmann called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY CHAIR**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

**Commissioner Blanchard-Reed moved to approve the Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2020  
Financial Documentation:

General Fund:

Payables: Checks #29020 through #29064 =	\$68,283.83
Payroll Transfer (EFT) =	629.89
Transfer (EFT) =	<u>\$54.11</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$68,967.83</u></b>

**Commissioner Rosenlund moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Fire Chief's Report**

Fire Chief Dale welcomed the Board and audience to the virtual meeting and reported on the following:

Strategic Priorities of COVID-19

Current Events

1. Benefit Charge measure is passing at 68.3%. Chief Dale recounted the extensive community outreach efforts leading up to the election.
2. 244<sup>th</sup> Command Fire virtual Post Incident Review led by Assistant Chief Mason took place on October 29 for our members and mutual/automatic aid partners.
3. Daily minimum staffing will increase from 20 to 21 in January 2021.

### Additional Information

Tender update and in service timeline: Approximately November 21 we should be ready to start training our members on the new Tender, then we will plan the in-service celebration and media release.

### **Standing Committees**

Budget, Finance and Audit – No report

Policy and Procedure – No report

Mergers/Consolidations – No report

Joint Labor/Management – No report

Strategic Leadership Plan – No report

Legislative Affairs – No report

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### 2021 Budget

- Approval of Final Expenditures

District Secretary Barker explained \$100 K was moved from the Elections line account to Administration for succession planning and some notes added as requested by Commissioner Homan.

**Commissioner Homan moved to approve the final expenditures for the 2021 Budget, as submitted. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- Resolution No. 956 – 2021 EMS Property Tax Levy

Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds read Resolution No. 956 into the record.

- Resolution No. 957 – 2021 Fire Property Tax Levy

Board Secretary Reynolds read Resolution No. 957 into the record.

#### Benefit Charge

- Resolution No. 953 – Collection of Benefit Charge in 2021

Board Secretary Reynolds provided the second reading of Resolution No. 953.

**Commissioner Blanchard-Reed moved to approve Resolution No. 953, Collection of Benefit Charge in 2021, as presented. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Pierce County Contract for Fire Services 2020

District Secretary Barker provided a brief synopsis of the contract.

**Commissioner Rosenlund moved to approve the Contract for Fire Protection Services between Pierce County and the District, as presented. Commissioner Homan seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Homan congratulated Chief Dale and staff on their great work on the Benefit Charge. This will be a stable funding mechanism for the next six years. He is excited to hear about the increase in staffing to 21 in 2021.

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed concurred with Commissioner Homan's comments. She believes this is an equitable way to tax our district. She has been impressed by the hard work, thoughtfulness and transparency of this process from the beginning.

Chairman Portmann commented he is grateful to staff for all of the work they have put in to educate the public on the Benefit Charge. He commended Battalion Chief Jensen for his time and efforts informing the citizenry on the Benefit Charge.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Portmann announced a 15-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) to evaluate qualifications of public employees or review their performance, with no business to follow.

The Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:20 p.m.

The Executive Session was announced as ending at 7:35 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business to come before the Board, the Special Board Meeting of November 9, 2020, was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**

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Ryan Portmann, Board Chairman

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Brenda L.B. Barker, District Secretary