

PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #3
WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Chair Dalton called the meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 5:30. A quorum was present with all four Commissioners in attendance. Also in attendance were, D/C McCurdy, D/C Boltz, A/C McGrady, A/C Adams, and Director Wick

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Dalton called for a motion for approval of agenda. Commissioner Casebolt motioned. Commissioner Clancy seconded. All approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING PRESENTATION

- 2025 Proposed FBC – Director Wick Briefed the Board on the vote to change to FBC. Briefed on the current dollars and a presentation is included with these minutes as to the projected 2025 levy rates and new funding measures. Director Wick briefed the Board on the changes which are included in the presentation and a part of these minutes. All questions from Commissioners were answered and a copy of the presentation was emailed to each Commissioner. Copy of presentation is attached to these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Minutes of November 05, 2024.

October Payroll \$3,677,262.72.

Warrants #73062 through #73110 totaling \$521,900.93.

CORRESPONDENCE

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

STAFF REPORT

- Chiefs Report – Chief Sharp briefed the Board
 - Successful passing of the Fire Benefit Charge at 68.2%. This shows a strong showing of support. Really good support and the department should be proud. Appreciate the community has support for us. Thanked the department for all their hard work.
 - AFG opened today and we are looking into what we can fit into applying for and what the needs are for our community. December 20th is the cutoff.
 - We received a letter from Marshall Dellinger for interest in the new commissioner position.

NEW BUSINESS

- First reading of Board Policy amendment Policy 1020 – Fiscal – Director Wick briefed the Board on the policies needed for FBC. Lots of detail behind it and this first reading which details out the process on how FBC works. Legal recommended this policy. Resolutions at times, have gotten lost so this was put into a policy. Approval will be requested at the December 3, 2024 meeting
- First reading of new Board Policy 1020.1 – Fire Benefit Charge – This is the second portion of the policy. Action will be taken at the next meeting on December 03, 2024.

ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution #111224-005 – Establishing an FBC for 2025. –Director Wick commented and briefed the Board as this resolution is approval for the FBC presentation.
Chair Dalton motioned for approval of Resolution #111224-005. Commissioner Casebolt motioned. Commissioner Durr seconded. All approved unanimously.
- Resolution #111224-006 – EMS Levy Increase – Director Wick briefed this is the resolution authorizing an increase in the District’s regular EMS Property tax levy to a levy amount over the previous year’s levy..
Chair Dalton called for motion to approve Resolution #111224-006. Commissioner Casebolt motioned. Commissioner Clancy seconded. All approved unanimously
- Resolution #111224-007 – Levy Certification – Director Wick briefed this is the resolution authorizing the levy amounts be collected in 2025 as provided in the district’s budget, which was open for public hearing on October 15, 2024 and adopted on November 12, 2024.
Chair Dalton motion for approval of Resolution #111226- 007. Commissioner Clancy motioned. Commissioner Durr seconded. All approved unanimously.
- Resolution #111224-008 – WPFR 2025 Budget – Director Wick briefed the changes which occurred since October 15, 2024. Medical rates went down to 4%. Adjustment was made. PFML increased and these changes were made to the budget. Door lock capital project will be made in 2025 as the project did not take place in 2024.
Chair Dalton motion for approval of Resolution #111224-008. Commissioner Clancy motioned. Commissioner Casebolt seconded... All approved unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Casebolt** – Congratulations to everyone who worked on FBC. Lots of hard work. County Commissioners meeting at Station 21. 6 PM.
- **Commissioner Clancy** – Thanked everyone for their hard work. Thanked Director Wick for her presentation.
- **Commissioner Durr** – Thanked everyone for their hard work. Nice to see the community trust they have. Thanked Director Wick
- **Chair Dalton** - Nice to see FBC pass. Lots of hard work and sign waving. Thanked Koree for her hard work on the presentation. Thanked Admin for their hard work.

Chair Dalton Adjourned the meeting at 5:55 for an executive Session.

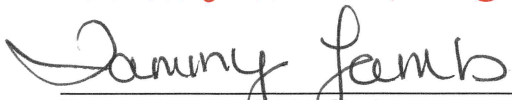
EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 30 Minute Executive Session – Policy 2030- Fire Chief Evaluation – Board members to review all data related to the Fire Chief’s performance in drafting the final evaluation.
Chair Dalton adjourned the meeting at 5:55. After a 15 minute Executive Session Chair Dalton called the meeting back to order at 6:10 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to bring to the Board, Chair Dalton adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Next meeting: December 03, 2024 @ 5:30 Station 31



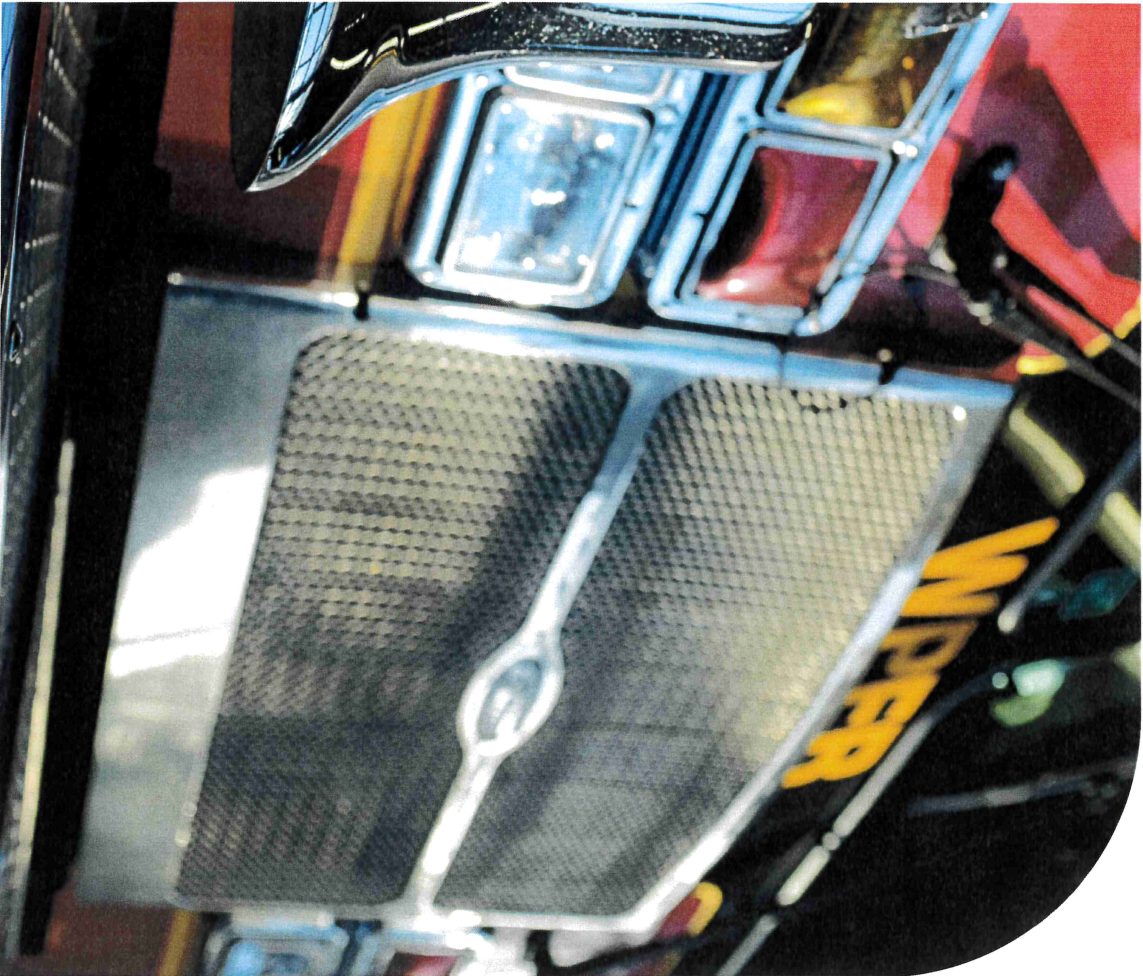
Tammy Lamb, District Clerk



Bart Dalton, Board Chair



Koree Wick, District Secretary



PUBLIC HEARING
Fire Benefit
Charge - 2025



Background

Funding Methodology

- On November 5th, voters were asked to approve a change in funding methodology; from a supplemental levy system to an FBC system for a six-year period of time.

What does that mean?

- The District's M&O Levy goes away. For context, in 2024 the levy rate is \$0.9225 per \$1,000 of AV.
- The 3rd \$0.50 on the District's Regular Levy goes away.
- The FBC replaces these two tax-based systems with a fire risk/benefit system.

Projected 2025 Levy Rates

Previous Funding Method

- EMS Levy \$0.4430
- Regular Levy \$1.3289
- M&O Levy \$0.8721
- **Total \$2.6440**

New Funding Method

- EMS Levy \$0.443
- Regular Levy \$1.000
- **Total \$1.443**
- FBC – *Varies based on square footage, use, and fire risk factors; proposing \$0.4075 Fire Flow Factor*

Formula

Square root of total square footage X 18 X Category Factor X Response Factor X Hazard Factor X Fire Flow Factor X Applicable Discount = FBC

Pieces of the equation

- **Square root of square footage;** This is the total square footage of all structure on the property (excludes building less than 400 square feet).
- **18;** Coefficient value based on empirical tests by ISO to calculate the water or fire flow needed to extinguish a fire.
- **Category Factor;** used to scale relative risk based on a structures size/type.
 - Residential
 - Multi-family
 - Commercial/Industrial
 - Manufactured/Mobile Homes
- **Response Factor;** this is derived with a base factor of number of firefighters needed to deliver required fire flow; for WPPFR first alarm residential response is 18 and commercial is 21.
- **Hazard Factor;** these apply to commercial/industrial properties and are defined by NFPA 13, Standard for the installation of sprinkler systems, they represent relative fire hazards in a given commercial/industrial building.
- **Fire Flow Factor;** estimated cost per gallon.
- **Applicable Discount;** a discount is provided for automatic sprinklers, this data is confirmed by our Community Risk Reduction division. A discount is provided for agricultural properties as well.



Key Points

- Proposed total 2025 FBC amount = \$34,040,596
- Average percentage of the annual budget over the course of six-years = 44.6% *(by statute, maximum is 60%)*
- Amount established based on proposed 2025 Budget *(Budget hearing October 15, 2025).*

Impact?

- The majority of residential property owners will see a reduction in the amount paid to WPFRR in 2025.
- Moves from long-range planning of only four years to six years.
- Annually, requires a Public Hearing to establish the subsequent years' FBC. The amount being requested for 2025; assumes no change over the course of the six-years.
- Option to petition FBC assessment.
- Those who qualify for exemptions from property tax will have the same or similar exemptions for FBC.



Example – Applying the formula

*Square root of total square footage X 18 X Category Factor X Response Factor X Hazard Factor
X Fire Flow Factor X Applicable Discount = FBC*

Residential Home – 2,625 square feet

Square root of 2,625 = 51.235

51.235 X 18 = 922.23

922.23 X 0.75 (Category Factor) = 691.67

691.67 X 2 (Response Factor) = 1,383.34

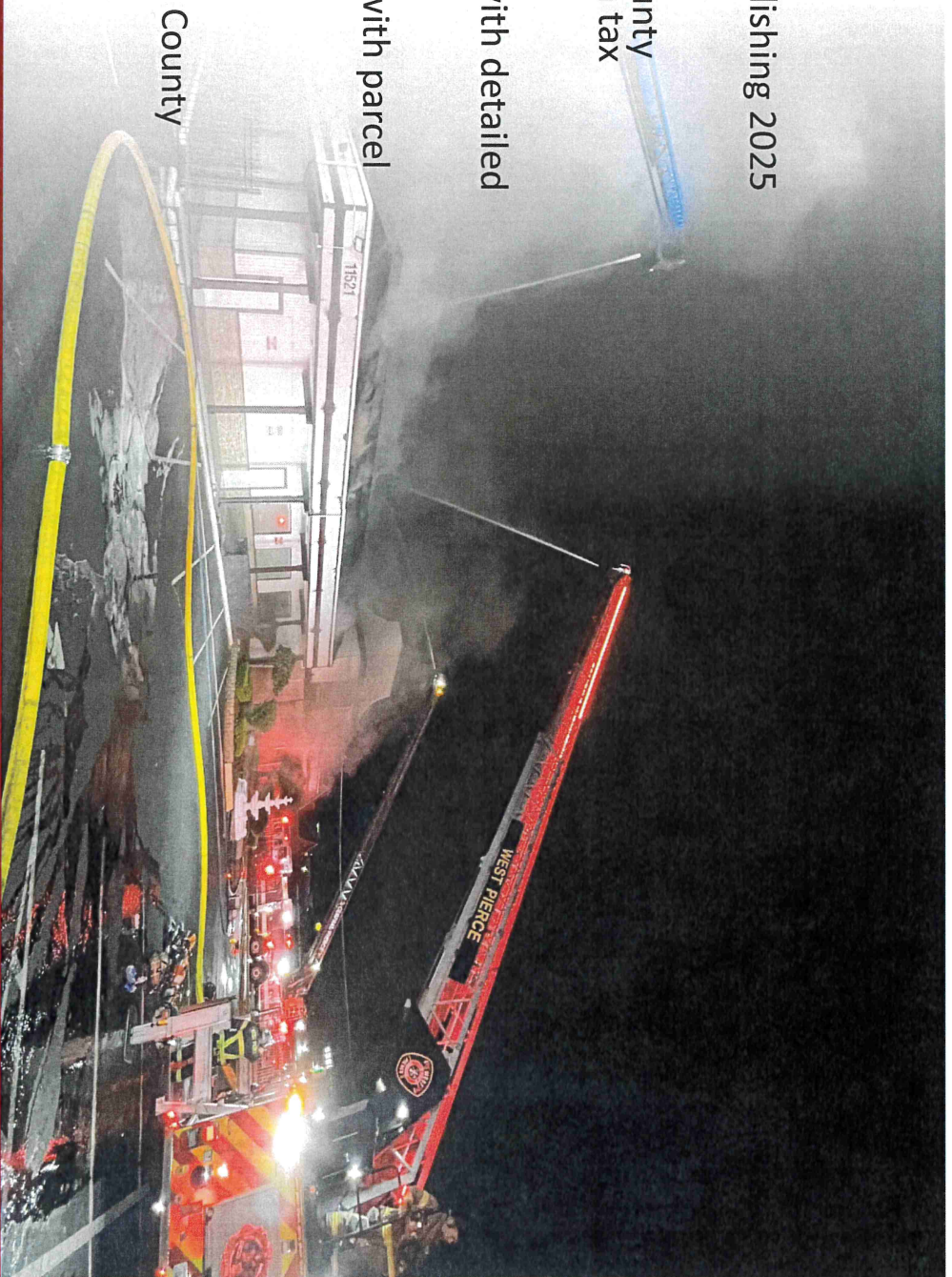
1,383.34 X 0.4075 (Fire Flow Factor) = FBC of \$563.71

As a residential home, there is no hazard factor and assumes no fire sprinklers.

For reference, under the levy model of funding, this home would have paid approximately \$613 in property taxes that will be eliminated.

Next Steps

- Passage of Board Resolution establishing 2025 FBC amount.
- FBC calculations sent to Pierce County Assessor Treasurer for inclusion on tax statements to parcel owners.
- Mailers sent to all parcel owners with detailed information regarding 2025 FBC.
- Customer service period for Q&A with parcel owners.
- Two-week petition period.
- Change report submitted to Pierce County Assessor Treasurer with any updates/modifications.



Questions

- District website www.westpierce.org
- Email to FBC@westpierce.org
- Call 253.564.1623

