

**KENWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 6, 2019**

MEETING: Meeting called to order at 16:03 p.m. Cooper, Kempers, McIntosh, Doss, Moretti and Chief Bellach were present.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: Director Moretti spoke giving gratitude to the response and performance of all Fire District personnel during the fires/wind event over the past week.

OLD BUSINESS: Direct Kempers stated it is a good opportunity for the District to move forward with a measure to increase our assessment tax due to the recent passing of other district parcel taxes.

Chief Bellach spoke on this topic. (See attached documents from Chief Bellach.)

The district currently has 1,081 parcels and will receive \$45,100.00 this year for a parcel tax revenue. Current rate is \$40.00 for residential and \$150.00 - \$200.00 for commercial. (Keeping us in line with the current region III parcel taxes.) If the district was to pass an increased tax measure of \$200.00 per residential and .14 cents a Sq. Ft. for commercial, this would give the district approximately \$216,000.00 to \$275,000.00 annually. There is no question our tax needs to be increased. With these figures, there is no room for growth and it is not sustainable. Possibly no funding from the Silver Plan if Kenwood was to pull out of the reorganization. New tax funds may not be available until FY2021-22. Continuing with the reorganization and receiving funding from the Silver Plan, Kenwood could receive over a \$Million per year in revenue. Additional funding from the county to move to one agency valley wide. 2.0 staffing moving to 3.0 staffing later on. Paramedic based engine companies. Better ISO ratings for a potential lower insurance premiums for our community. Increased level of service for all communities. Regional training program.

Director Cooper stated it would be good to get dialog from the community, as well as continue to get information from the other districts involved. Director Cooper agreed on the set tax of \$200.00 per parcel. Raising our tax would be good insurance for the district if the measure and the reorganization did not go through.

Director Moretti asked when we would start to talk with other boards involved. Chief Akre added that yes, we need to have a formal joint board meeting and recommended that we start soon. Director Doss asked about the timeline in reference to the LAFCO process and the protest period. It is from 31- 65 days from the time that the application is filed with LAFCO. With the current time line, that would be sometime in March 2020. Schell Vista's reason not to participate at this time in the reorganization was because they just passed a new tax and felt it was not right to join at this time.

Richard Gulson, from the public, requested a question: Who from LAFCO had voted against the Sphere of Influence? LAFCO Rep from Cotati City Counsel and an At Large member. Reasoning was because the amendment that was asking to give Sonoma more time was rejected.

Between now and March 2020 is the time to have multiple meetings with the community and boards to move forward towards the reorganization and to get as much information to all.

Chief Bellach will meet with Chief Akcre and compile information for the communities in regards to the reorganization. The district could spend public funds to create information for the public outside of any election measure information.

Matt Clawson, from the public, asked the question, would the information provided to the public have both pros and cons? The information would be explaining all the enhanced service levels for the communities.

Director Doss expressed concern in regards to the identity of the district after the reorganization. The name could stay Kenwood Fire Station and how important it is to our members and the community.

Chief Bob Uboldi, from the public, spoke about how important it is to have a Chief at the station and who would be the "go to" person if a citizen had a problem. It would be important to keep that level of service and support to the community. Chief Akcre responded that a Chief Officer could spend different days at these stations to maintain the presence and continue this level of service.

Captain Tony Ghisla, from the public, asked about the resolution from LAFCO in regards to page 13, "The immediate consolidation" being factual? The resolution is approving two bodies. The MSR and the Sphere of Influence. The board had approved to move forward with the MSR. Tony had also asked, where does this come back to the assessment tax? What do we do? The district may want to move in parallel with a parcel tax increase measure as well as continue with the reorganization. Tony stated that if the district did plan to move forward with a tax measure, a plan would need to be developed to show what the revenue would go to.

Chief Bellach stated that it would be a lot of work in a short period of time to create a measure for the next ballot. It was expressed that why have duplicate efforts for a measure when the reorganization has a potential to start collecting the tax before the measure would.

Director Doss asked if Chief Bellach could gather information regarding election dates and material regarding creating a measure for a ballot.

Kenwood Fire District Assessment Tax

Currently: 1,081 total Parcels

FY2019-20 total tax **\$45,100.00**

Residential \$40.00 Commercial \$150.00 - \$200.00

Increase tax to \$200.00 per residential and .14 per Sq. Ft. Commercial (In line with region III)

1081 parcels X \$200.00 = **\$216,200** (\$250,000.00 - \$275,000.00)

- Our tax needs to be increased! No question.
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- No room for growth
- Not sustainable
- Now that we have increased the taxes, what is the next step?
- What does this tax increase alone give back to the community?
- None or very little Sonoma County sales tax measure funding
- Tax funds may not be available FY 2021-22

Sonoma County Wildfire Prevention, Emergency Alert Tax Ordinance

Region III Reorganization

Revenue estimated at \$51 Million per year county wide

Kenwood Fire District's estimated revenues:

- Vegetation Management and Wildfire Prevention and Response
1.39% = \$708,900.00
- Recruitment and retention
.28% = \$142,800.00
- Equipment and Facilities
.37% = \$188,700.00

Total of \$1,040,400.00 per year (Estimated)

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- Funds will be allocated to agencies working towards regional consolidation.
 - Additional funding from the county for regional reorganization. (Sonoma County Fire District received)
 - 2.0 staffing later moving to 3.0 staffing
 - Engine based Advanced Life Support (Paramedics)
 - Better ISO ratings – Lower insurance rates for our communities
 - Regional Training Program
 - Regional Standard Operating Procedures
 - Maintaining and enhancing a strong volunteer firefighter recruitment, opportunities and participation
 - Increased level of service to Kenwood and all the communities in Region III, closest unit responses
 - Room for growth
 - Sustainable