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HOODLAND FIRE DISTRICT #74

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HOODLAND FIRE DISTRICT BOARD APPROVES RESOLUTION TO PLACE LOCAL OPTION LEVY INCREASE BEFORE VOTERS AT MAY 21 ELECTION

March 1, 2019

The Hoodland Fire District's Board of Directors have unanimously agreed to place a five-year local option levy of 25¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value on the May 21, 2019 ballot.

According to Board Chairperson Patrick Buckley, the additional funds would be used to ensure that three firefighter/paramedics with Advanced Life Support training are available to respond at all hours. Paramedics with these skills improve survival rates. "If the levy is approved," says Buckley, "Firefighter/paramedics with Advanced Life Support medical capabilities would go on every call. Having firefighter/paramedics with these skills allows for more complete, immediate action to save lives or fight fires."

HFD Fire Chief John Ingrao says the levy would also help stabilize funding so the District can continue to provide emergency response by career firefighter/paramedics 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "In 2017 the District was able to increase emergency response availability by career firefighter/paramedics from 12 hours a day to 24 hours a day. Funds from the levy would ensure 24/7 response by career firefighters/paramedics can continue," says Ingrao.

According to Ingrao, career firefighters/paramedics availability 24/7 is important to ensuring the safety of the community and, he says, the need is increasing, "Calls for emergency fire and medical response in the District has increased almost 50% in the past 10 years." While the District will continue to rely on its approximately 30 volunteers to provide additional support when more responders are needed, the levy will ensure more consistent, rapid response by career firefighters with paramedic-level skills when two emergency calls overlap.

Funds from the levy would be used to hire a deputy chief who would also be a firefighter/paramedic. This would both ensure command coverage 24/7 and allow for faster response to many second-call situations that would otherwise have to wait 20 minutes or more for responders from Sandy Fire or other districts to arrive.

The cost to the individual property owner of the local option levy would vary depending on the tax assessed value (not market value) of their property. For residential property with a tax assessed value of \$150,000, about average for residential property in the District, the cost of a 25¢ local option levy would be \$38 per year or about \$3 per month.

For more information contact

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