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MAY 08 2014

KITTITAS COUNTY AUDITOR

**SNOQUALMIE PASS FIRE AND RESCUE
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01**

INTENT TO IMPOSE BENEFIT CHARGE

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SNOQUALMIE PASS FIRE AND RESCUE PROVIDING FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF A BENEFIT CHARGE; PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON AUGUST 5, 2014, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A BENEFIT CHARGE ON PERSONAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS TO REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE DISTRICT FOR SIX YEARS BEGINNING IN 2015.

Background: WHEREAS, the District, in 2008, was authorized by its citizens pursuant to chapter 52.18 RCW to establish, impose and collect a benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District, has not previously applied the benefit charge to residential properties but now intends to expand the benefit charge to include residential properties; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that the benefit charge, established in conjunction with a lower level of property taxes provides the most stable, reliable and cost effective method for financing the operations of the District needed to maintain a satisfactory level of District services; and

WHEREAS, the benefit charge will be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits to property resulting from the services provided by the District and shall not exceed 60% of the operating budget of the District; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable and necessary that the District continue to impose an expanded benefit charge to maintain and improve the services provided by the District;

Resolution: NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue as follows:

1. **Benefit Charge.** It is the declared intent of the Board of Commissioners to fix and impose a benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within the District, which have or will receive benefits provided by the District to be paid by owners of such properties.
2. **Amount of Benefit Charge.** The benefit charge for each year shall be set in the year preceding imposition of the charge after a public hearing to review and establish the amount of the benefit charge pursuant RCW 52.18.060.
3. **Notice of the Benefit Charge.** Subsequent to the public hearing referred to in Section 2, property owners will be notified in writing each year of the benefit charge and the amounts thereof to be charged in the subsequent year.

4. **Review Board.** Subsequent to the establishing the annual benefit charge and notifying the property owners, the District shall form a review board pursuant to RCW 52.18.070. The review board shall be convened and available for at least a two-week period to hear and decide written appeals from property owners regarding their particular benefit charge assessment.
5. **Effective Date.** If approved by the voters, the benefit charge shall be imposed on the affected properties beginning January 1, 2015.
6. **Public Hearing.** The Board of Commissioners will schedule a public hearing before the Board at a subsequent date at least ten days prior to the election to consider the proposal to impose benefit charges for the support of the legally authorized activities of the District to maintain and improve the services afforded in the District. The secretary shall cause public notice of the hearing to be published in a legal newspaper circulated within the District not less than ten days prior to the date of the hearing. The secretary shall also post a public notice of the hearing at all fire district stations within the District.
7. **Election.** There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the district for their ratification or rejection, at a special election on August 5, 2014, in conjunction with the state primary election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not such benefit charge for fire protection purposes shall be authorized. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the Auditors of King and Kittitas County, as ex-officio Supervisor of Elections, call such special election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot titled substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION

Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue

Shall Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for up to a six-year period, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

YES

NO

Adoption: ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the 6th day of May, 2014, the following Commissioners being present and voting:




Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner



Secretary