

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN LAKES FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

REGULAR MEETING

August 26th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
125 W. Hayden Ave., Hayden, Idaho

I. Call To Order

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON called the Public Budget Hearing to order at 10:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Amende, Halpin, Pearce, and Thompson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Washko

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Riley, Division Chief Mather, Division Chief Dill, Fire Marshal Drechsel, Secretary Knapp, Chris Larson, Alex Tull, John Spencer, and Don Bradway

II. Pledge of Allegiance

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Presentation of Proposed FY 2022 Operating Budget

The *Proposed Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2021-2022* was presented for inspection and review. Per Idaho Code §31-1422 (2), the hearing date and time had been posted at Station I and published as a legal notice in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* on August 16th, 2021.

CHIEF RILEY noted that the proposed budget as presented did not change from the budget presented at the last regular meeting on 8/12. Copies of the *Proposed Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2021-2022* were made available to public in attendance. The total amount of the proposed budget was \$9,214,500.

IV. Public Comment

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON asked for public comment. There were no comments.

V. Levy of Tax and Adoption of Final FY 2022 Operating Budget by Resolution

Resolution 21-07 was presented for review as follows:

WHEREAS, the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District has caused an annual budget to be prepared and presented to the Board of Commissioners to appropriate funds for the year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District, and,

WHEREAS, the proposed budget has been posted for public review and advertised as required by Idaho Code Section 31-1422, and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing upon the adoption of this proposed budget has been properly noticed and scheduled as required by Idaho Code Section 31-1422, and

WHEREAS, the proposed revenues are summarized as follows:

<i>Anticipated Property Tax Revenue</i>	\$	6,265,000
<i>Anticipated Non-Tax Levied Revenue</i>		2,949,500
<i>Total Anticipated Revenue</i>	\$	<u>9,214,500</u>

and,

WHEREAS, the proposed expenditures are summarized as follows:

Anticipated Wages/Personnel Expenses	\$	6,591,240
Anticipated Administrative/Office Expenses		176,800
Anticipated Liability Insurance Expenses		70,250
Anticipated Professional Fee Expenses		68,500
Anticipated Station Expenses		116,000
Anticipated Communication Expenses		17,500
Anticipated EMS Expenses		65,600
Anticipated Fire Battalion Expenses		148,100
Anticipated Inspection/Prevention Expenses		7,700
Anticipated Training Expenses		47,000
Anticipated Vehicle Repair & Maintenance		125,000
Anticipated Vehicle Fuel Expenses		45,000
Anticipated Capital Equipment Expenses		1,685,000
Anticipated Contingency Expenses		50,000
Anticipated Lease Expenses		800
Total Anticipated Operating Expenses	\$	9,214,500

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed tax shall be levied upon all property within the boundaries of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District, as authorized by Idaho Code Section 31-1423.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed budget as approved by the Board of Commissioners of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District for the year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022, is hereby adopted by resolution and the Fire Chief and Management are hereby authorized to make expenditures provided for in said budget, provided that said expenditures are consistent with Idaho State Code and the policies of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed expenditures are hereby appropriated and authorized.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON made a motion, seconded by **COMMISSIONER PEARCE** to approve Resolution 21-07 as presented approving the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget and adopting by resolution 100% of the allowable levy of property tax on all property in the District as authorized by Idaho Code §31-1423.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON called for discussion. There was no discussion.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON called for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Amende	Yes
Commissioner Halpin	Yes
Commissioner Pearce	Yes
Commissioner Thompson	Yes

Motion carried

VI. Close Public Budget Hearing

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON closed the Public Budget Hearing and opened the regular board meeting.

VII. Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

VIII. Consent Calendar

The consent calendar for August 26th, 2021 was presented for review as follows:

1. Approval of August 26th, 2021 Meeting Agenda as presented;
2. Approval of August 12th, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented;
3. Approval of Unpaid and Paid Bills Lists as presented;
4. Review of Monthly Revenue/Expense Report YTD July.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN made a motion, seconded by **COMMISSIONER AMENDE** to approve the August 26th, 2021 Consent Calendar as presented.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON called for discussion. There was no discussion.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON called for a roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Amende	Yes
Commissioner Halpin	Yes
Commissioner Pearce	Yes
Commissioner Thompson	Yes

Motion carried

IX. Reports

A. Chief's Report - CHIEF RILEY reported the following:

1. Impact Fees – Have spoken multiple times with consultant, Anne Wescott, with Galena Consulting, via phone. There will be one meeting with the DIFAC, possibly via Zoom; the committee has asked for data including a map of current staffed stations. There was further discussion on overall response times vs. a breakdown of response times by zone. CHIEF RILEY noted that the committee is anticipating getting a resolution to the city councils sometime next month so that impact fees can start being collected as soon as October.
2. Marketing Firm – Range NW has developed a draft flier intended to be mailed out to registered voters in the District; a copy was presented for review.
3. Levy – A press release was sent out announcing the District will have an override levy question on the November 2nd ballot; an article was in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* the next day. CHIEF RILEY reported that he has been contacted by the Editor to work on getting an Op Ed published.
4. Station 8 – The Idaho Transportation Dept. (ITD) is starting its revision project on Highway 53 directly in front of both St 2 and St 8. After speaking to the ITD contractor re: easement requirements, the project will take enough land in front of the St 8 shop that an engine will be too long to park in front of the station for repair/maintenance work. CHIEF RILEY reported that the ITD's initial plan was to offer to put in a drive through bay door on the back of the existing station, but after an on-site inspection of the building it was determined the building is not structurally feasible for adding a bay door on the back. He further reported that driving vehicles behind the building could also be a potential issue due to the septic tank location and how close the railroad tracks are to the building. CHIEF RILEY stated that he requested the ITD consider replacing the existing station with a 40'x60' shop and the District would demolish the existing station.

There was discussion on the Highway 53 project involving the ITD putting in a continuous center turn lane, widening the shoulders, and adding left and right turn lanes. There was also discussion on whether the project can inhibit the District's ability to use the St 8 maintenance shop.

5. Admin Quarters – The Lakes Highway District reached out to the District this week regarding their current buildings out at the CDA airport and whether the District would be interested in land swap/sharing of the property. CHIEF RILEY noted that the property has an office building that could be used for Admin offices and board meeting chambers, as well as building(s) that could be utilized as a vehicle maintenance shop. There was further discussion on the option of moving Admin offices out of St 1 to make more room for crew quarters/shift personnel offices versus a major renovation to add on to the existing building.

B. Commissioner Reports

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON reported he will not be able to attend the next regular meeting on 9/9 in person, but that he will try to call in or Zoom in depending on the service availability while he is out of town on vacation.

X. Public Input

DON BRADWAY introduced himself to the board as a resident in the District and supporter of the override levy to add a 3rd staffed station. MR. BRADWAY stated that he lives in the Garwood area and asked about the future status of the un-staffed station on Hudlow Road (St. 3). CHIEF RILEY responded that at this time there is no plan to vacate that station. He did report that the District was originally planning to remodel that station on Hudlow as a staffed station; but has recently received an offer of a possible land donation nearby that would be a more viable option. DON BRADWAY clarified with CHIEF RILEY that the District's station on Old Highway 95 (St. 7) is currently used as a storage building and due to its small acreage with no options for land expansion, it would not be possible to improve it as a 3rd staffed station.

JOHN SPENCER stated that he thought the recent article in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* regarding the District's upcoming levy election was informative and made a good case for why the District needs the additional funding. He noted that the District had attempted, but failed, to garner enough support for an override levy in the past and questioned what it will do differently this time. **COMMISSIONER THOMPSON** responded that the board feels that word of the election just did not get out to enough members of the public, noting that in 2019 the override levy failed by only 18 votes. CHIEF RILEY reported that the District has an agreement with a marketing company for this year's election to professionally reach out to all registered voters with information on the election. JOHN SPENCER noted that he has seen signs out for other levy elections. CHIEF RILEY reported that the marketing company has recommended waiting as their data shows there is a higher voter turnout when advertising the election closer to the election date.

JOHN SPENCER reported on the recent Development Impact Fee Advisory Committee (DIFAC) that he is a member of. He stated that the committee is in support of Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) resulting in impact fees for both fire and EMS.

DON BRADWAY, also a member of the DIFAC, reported that he had supported the District's levy override election last time and had written a "My Turn" article in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* that had changed some people's minds about supporting it. He noted that he supports it this time as well and wants to aggressively pursue others' support also. The board thanked MR. BRADWAY for his support of the District.

UNION PRESIDENT CHRIS LARSON reported to the board that he is coordinating with the American Legion Post 154 on a 9/11 20th Anniversary Remembrance event to be held Sat., 9/11 at 10:00 a.m. at Rathdrum City Hall. He reported that the District Honor Guard will be participating in the ceremony, as well as FIRE CHIEF RILEY and DIVISION CHIEF MATHER. **COMMISSIONER THOMPSON** stated that he will be out of town on vacation, but **COMMISSIONER PEARCE** stated that he will attend on behalf of the board of commissioners.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the Regular Meeting was adjourned upon the motion of **COMMISSIONER THOMPSON** and as seconded by **COMMISSIONER PEARCE** at 10:25 a.m.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON called for a roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Amende Yes
Commissioner Halpin Yes
Commissioner Pearce Yes
Commissioner Thompson Yes

Motion carried

TERRY J. THOMPSON, Chairman



DAVID P. HALPIN, Commissioner



DENNIS L. AMENDE, Commissioner



MICHAEL R. PEARCE, Commissioner

JAMES C. WASHKO, Commissioner

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a duly called meeting of the governing body of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District held in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, including Idaho Open Meeting Law, on the 26th day of August 2021.

ATTEST BY:



Valerie Kharp, District Secretary

