



GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Daniel J George, Fire Chief

March 9, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

1) The Special Meeting of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District was held at Station 1. The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. with Robert Gloeckner leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2) **Roll Call of Directors:**

Mike Doyle	Steve Petrucci
Charlie Lachman	Joe Petersen
Christopher Tachouet	Robert Gloeckner
Domenic Carinalli	

Directors Absent: None

3) **Public Input:** None

4) **New Business: Special Tax survey: ACTION ITEM**

- **Enter into a contract with Herb Williams for a Special Tax survey**

The Directors Meeting Agenda Package included copies of Mr. Williams November 2018 election demographics, a list of date deadlines from the County Clerk's Office for inclusion of any Parcel Tax proposals in the November 5, 2019 Election.

Chief George presented some background material on the merits of proposed contractor Herb Williams including;

Mr. Williams was the contractor for Gold Ridge Fire Protection Districts successful 2004 election for our current parcel tax and very competent. This past November Mr. Williams was the contractor for parcel tax measures in five (5) fire districts. Four (4) of the five (5) were successful, including a \$300 Parcel Tax with our southern boundary district Ranch Adobe.

Mr. Williams is of the opinion that the November 2019 General Election is perhaps the last best election time. The proposed contract cost would be somewhere between \$ 8,000 –\$ 12,000 with an immediate start.

The current \$ 65/Parcel Gold Ridge Fire Protection District tax is levied on approximately 5,500 parcels within the District. Approximately occupied 5,000 Parcels are taxed at the \$ \$65 rate, the vacant remainder at the \$20 rate This generates approximately \$ 346,000 in annual revenue to Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, less County collection costs.

The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's Long Range planning subcommittee working with Chief George & staff are developing a draft business plan.

Information from the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District community is required as to what funding level would benefit Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

A Gold Ridge Fire Protection District draft business plan would be developed from Herb Williams survey results.

Board Discussion

Director Petersen was supportive of the proposed contract. He has questions regarding how the new Gold Ridge Fire Protection District parcel tax revenue will be used with other County funding sources, such as a new sales tax, or other County money being integrated into Gold Ridge Fire Protection District budget. What are the financial opportunities & benefits if Gold Ridge Fire Protection District combined with other fire districts with parcel tax rates higher than our own? How would this affect the new Gold Ridge Fire Protection District parcel tax rate? He also suggested a vision statement, goals and process transparency would be best. Chief George explained to his knowledge no possible combinations or expansions of service could happen sooner than two (2) years from now, and the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District budget pressures, shortfalls and staff leaving for better paying jobs would threaten Gold Ridge Fire Protection Districts service levels. The need for the survey results is more immediate. He also explained that the proposed Herb Williams contract could provide insight into if any new parcel tax should stand alone and replace the existing rates or be in addition to the rates in place now. He also suggested that the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District subcommittee meet on Monday March 11, 2019 4:00 pm at Station 1, to review a draft business plan that he and the Staff were developing.

Director Tachouet suggested that the Survey needed to proceed to answer some of Director Peterson's questions. Director Gloeckner said he was not in support of a adopting a high parcel tax rate through consolidation such as the \$500 rate that Bodega Bay Fire Protection District currently has in place. However, the proposed

Herb Williams survey contract is essential to provide samples of our Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's community feelings towards a new parcel tax. Director Lachman was supportive of the proposed contract and agreed that questions such as those brought up today could be hashed over by the subcommittee. He also suggested that based on the past successful parcel tax measures the need to proceed quickly is the best idea.

Battalion Chiefs DeCarli and Schroth-Cary discussed other information that they had regarding the current underway county consolidation proposals and echoed Chief George's urgency to proceed in a timely manner.

Director Petersen made a motion and Director Lachman' seconded that the Herb Williams contract be approved, and Chief George to proceed with a \$12,000 contract, and to include services for any legal review as necessary. All seven directors gave their support and the motion passed unanimously.

5) **Adjournment:** There being no further business, Director Carinalli made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 a.m. The motion was seconded by Director Petersen and passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Charlie Lachman

Robert Gloeckner, Chair

Steve Petrucci, Director

Charles Lachman, Director

Domenic Carinalli, Director

Joe Petersen, Director

Christopher Tachouet, Director

Mike Doyle, Director

Date Approved