

KING COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 34
8450 161st Avenue N.E.
Redmond, Washington 98052 (425)
556-2226

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS Thomas
Johnston, Chairman Sherman
Colson
Peter Lucarelli
Anne Carlson, Secretary

Tim Fuller, Fire Chief

PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING DATE/TIME/PLACE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of King
County Fire District 34 will be held at:

Station 15
4200 228th Avenue NE
Redmond, Washington


at

6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2005

to discuss the relocation of fire personnel and equipment from Station 15 to the new
Fire Station 18 located in the Redmond Ridge area.

DATED THIS 11th DAY OF DECEMBER 2005

Time: 12:45 P.M.


Anne M. Carlson, District Secretary
King County Fire District 34

Posted: Stations 11, 13, 14, 15

KING COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 34

Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Location: Station 15
4200 228th Avenue NE
Redmond, WA

AGENDA

Monday, December 19, 2005

6:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER - SPECIAL MEETING

II. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 219/05: INTERFUND LOAN AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

III. AMEND 2006 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION 217A/05

D. PRESENTATION: RELOCATION OF FIRE STATION 15 PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO
FIRE STATION 18 AT REDMOND RIDGE

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS (4 minutes per person)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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**KING COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 34
SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

December 19, 2005

- I. **Call to Order** - A special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of King County Fire District 34 was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2005, at Station 15, located at 4200 228th Avenue NE, Redmond, Washington. Chairman Thomas Johnston, Commissioner Sherman Colson, Fire Chief Tim Fuller, Deputy Chief Deb Ayr, Deputy Chief Andy Hail, Deputy Chief Loren Charlston, Attorney Kinnon Williams, Lieutenant Tom Langton, and District Secretary Anne Carlson were present.

The purpose of this meeting was to approve two resolutions and provide information to the public regarding the relocation of Fire Station 15 personnel and equipment to Fire Station 18 at Redmond Ridge.

II. Approval of Resolutions 217 A/05 and 219/05

Motion from Commissioner Colson to approve Resolution 217A/05, Amended 2006 Tax Levy, and Resolution 219/05, Interfund Loan and Transfer of Funds. Motion seconded by Chairman Johnston. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Fire Station 15 Relocation to Fire Station 18

Approximately 40 citizens attended the meeting. Chairman Johnston showed a PowerPoint presentation covering the history of District 34 stations; the locations of city, district, and surrounding jurisdictions' fire stations; how the incorporation of the City of Sammamish affected the assessed valuation and, therefore, the decreased tax revenues received by District 34; and the contract between Redmond, District 34, Sammamish, and Eastside Fire and Rescue that has allowed Station 15 to stay open until the opening of Station 18 and is expiring December 31, 2005. After analysis, it was determined that tax revenues were not enough to fund four stations and operationally, there was no need for four stations.

A citizen asked if another contract could be signed with Sammamish. Chairman Johnston replied that Sammamish was not interested in another contract.

Chairman Johnston stated that \$6.4 million would be needed to staff four stations in the district. The maximum tax rate of \$1.50 (\$5.6 million) would only allow the staffing of three stations. He explained the process used to determine a solution to this problem:

- Types of responses were looked at
- Location analysis software was used
- BLS & ALS responses
- Population shifted north and many of those areas are high density, senior communities
- South portion of the district was taken by Sammamish

Members of the audience asked if traffic was considered when using the response software. Chief Hail answered that conservative drive times were used, recognizing that 55 mph on Highway 202 could not always be reached due to traffic. The district is looking into emergency vehicle access gates on an easement at the north end of 228th Avenue NE to improve responses. The district has also been providing free address signs to citizens in the district so responding crews are able to find rural homes easier.

Attorney Kinnon Williams gave a history of fire stations. When Station 15 was sited, the Sahalie community was part of District 34. When Station 15 was due to be built, citizens in the area tried to stop

construction. When the MPD was approved in the Redmond Ridge area, Quadrant agreed to build a fire station for District 34. It was thought that by the time Station 18 was built, taxes from the Redmond Ridge/Trilogy construction would be enough to staff it.

Chairman Johnston stated that many fire districts operate at top taxes and continually have to go to the public for levy lifts. The commissioners have raised taxes only by the new construction amount each year which has decreased taxes to 2005's \$1.10. To increase taxes to the maximum of \$1.50 per \$1,000 would require a levy lid lift vote.

Ron Haworth introduced himself as former Redmond Fire Chief from 1969 to 1981 former Fire Chief of District 10, former Sammamish City Council Member, and current consultant to the City of Sammamish. He helped negotiate the agreement between Sammamish, Redmond, and District 34, where Sammamish would pay Redmond \$637,000 for five years with the agreement that Station 15 would stay open. He claimed that Sammamish would never have signed the agreement if they knew Station 15 would close at the end of the five-year contract (12/31/05). Mr. Haworth stated that Sammamish would possibly be interested in helping staff an aid car at Station 15 with District 34. He recommended the commissioners contact Mike Sauerwein at the City of Sammamish.

Chief Hail reviewed response times. He estimated up to 7.5 minutes for four stations to arrive in Station 15's area, depending on dispatch time and firefighters preparing to respond. He explained the Deccan software that was used to assist staff in determining a recommendation:

- Neighboring jurisdictions' mutual aid support was considered
- Call concentrations
- Acceptable response times (arrive at an event in 6 minutes 80% of the time including processing and drive time)
- Many calls are shifting to the north of the district.
- Closing Station 15 would have impacted 88 calls in Station 15's area.
- Closing Station 13 would have impacted 300+ calls in Station 13's area. If Station 13 is out of service, Woodinville Fire must respond more often into the Redmond Avondale corridor. Station 16's aerial would also be absent from its area more often.

Items from the audience:

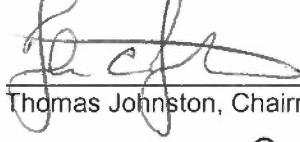
- Why wasn't public input requested before a decision was made?
- Why was notice of the public meeting so late? Chairman Johnston apologized for the late notice.
- Principal Janik of Alcott Elementary across the street from Station 15 stated she depends on Station 15 to protect the schoolchildren,
- A citizen asked if the insurance class would change. It was answered that it would be unlikely.
- Citizens asked for a written analysis
- Why not close Station 13 instead of Station 15 because on the map it looks close to Station 18?
- Was the number of major accidents on Highway 202 considered?
- What will be done with the building?
- Change Station 15 to an aid car only station
- Keep Station 15 open for an additional 90 days and give the public the ability to give input.
- Many in attendance had not received the District's newsletter that announced the public meeting and only found out about it from a flyer distributed by a neighbor.

- V. **Public Comments** - Many citizens were angry at the commissioners for deciding to close Station 15 without input from the public and spoke out of turn without following protocol; therefore, the names of most of those who spoke are unknown even though a sign-up sheet was used.

The commissioners agreed to form a citizens' group that would review the analysis work done by Fire Staff and return with a recommendation within 60 days from January 1, 2006.

- V. **Adjournment** - Commissioner Johnston adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Thomas Johnston, Chairman



Peter Lucrelli, Commissioner

ATTEST

~eukrt.

Anne Carlson, District Secretary
Board of Commissioners
King County Fire District 34