



Orting Valley Fire and Rescue

Pierce County Fire District 18
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Resolution 2020-013

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 18. FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BENEFIT CHARGE AND CALL FOR AN ELECTION FOR A BALLOT PROPOSITION TO IMPOSE THE BENEFIT CHARGE.

WHEREAS, Pierce County Fire District No. 18 (Orting Valley Fire & Rescue or "OVFR") is authorized by RCW 52.18 *et seq.* to establish, impose, and collect a benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within OVFR;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of OVFR has determined that the benefit charge, established in conjunction with a reduced levy of property taxes, provides the most stable, reliable, and cost-effective method for financing the operations of OVFR needed to provide a satisfactory level of services to its citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, the benefit charge will be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits that each property receives from the services by OVFR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, as follows:

1. **Benefit Charge.** It is the declared intent of OVFR to impose a voter-approved benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within OVFR, to be paid by the owners of such property in compliance with the following statutory procedures.

1.1 **Method of Apportionment.** The benefit charge shall be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits to property resulting from the services provided by OVFR using a method of apportionment established on an annual basis in accordance with RCW 52.18.010(6).

1.2 **Amount of Benefit Charge.** The amount of the benefit charge for each year shall be set in the year preceding imposition of the charge, after a public hearing to review the amount of the benefit charge for the subsequent year, pursuant to RCW 52.18.060, and shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the operating budget of OVFR.

1.3 **Notice of the Benefit Charge.** Pursuant to RCW 52.18.060, property owners will be notified in writing of the benefit charge and the amounts thereof, subsequent to a public hearing referred to in Section 1.2 above, and prior to the formation or convening of a benefit charge review board by OVFR.

1.4 **Review Board.** Subsequent to establishing the annual benefit charge and notifying the property owners, OVFR shall form a review board pursuant to RCW 52.18.060. The review board shall be convenient and available for at least a two (2)-week period to hear and decide written appeals from property owners regarding their particular benefit charge assessment.

2. **Effective Date.** The benefit charge, if authorized by the voters, would be fixed and imposed on the affected property, effective January 1, 2022.

3. **Contract for Administration.** If approved by the voters, the Fire Chief is authorized and directed to negotiate a revised Interlocal Agreement with the Pierce County Treasurer, if necessary, to provide for the administration and collection of the benefit charge.

4. **Initial Public Hearing.** The Board of Commissioners will schedule a public hearing before the Board at a subsequent date not more than six months or less than ten (10) days prior to the election to specifically set forth and consider the proposal to impose benefit charges for the support of the legally authorized activities of OVFR to maintain and improve the services provided in OVFR. A report of the public hearing shall be filed with the county treasurer of Pierce County and be available for public inspection.

5. **Election.** Pursuant to RCW 52.18.050, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of OVFR for their approval or rejection, at the special election of April 27, 2021, the question of whether the benefit charge shall be authorized. The ballot title for the measure is to be substantially as prescribed by RCW 52.18.050:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall Pierce County Fire District No. 18 be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for six (6) years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent (60%) of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

_____ YES _____ NO

Adopted this 17th day of November 2020.



Margaret O'Harra Buttz-Commission Chair

Tom Marino-Vice Commissioner

Arlene Dannat-Commissioner

Kevin Gorder-Commissioner

Jason Bellerive-Commissioner



Kimberly Kemp-District Secretary