

DWFPD (Cont. from page 1)

and consequences of a failed mill levy increase when casting their votes.

Board President Greg Gent read aloud the three-page proposed resolution in its entirety. The main portion of the Nov. 7, 2017, ballot issue asks, "shall Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Northern Sub-district taxes be increased \$1,418,411—first full fiscal year

dollar increase annually—beginning in levy year 2017 for collection in calendar year 2018 by increasing the sub-district's existing property tax of 7 mills by 14.9 mills to be used for the continuing provision of services, programs, and facilities within the sub-district..." Board members unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

Background: The City of Colorado

Springs annexed 22 square miles of DWFPD's tax-paying service area. Although the annexation was initiated in 2003, DWFPD has been servicing the annexed area to support residents until the city built Colorado Springs Fire Department Station 22 on Voyager Parkway. The city completed Station 22 in 2016. Now DWFPD is engaged in a two-phase process to exclude the annexed territory from its service area resulting in the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Northern Sub-district. When phase 2 of the exclusion is complete as of Jan. 1, 2019, it will effectively reduce the district's annual revenue by 66 percent. DWFPD anticipates that a 14.9 mill annual increase will provide revenue to cover services for the next eight to 10 years. For additional details, see www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#dwfpd-1105

Public comments

Two district residents, Delroy Johnson and Gary Rusnak, opened the public comments portion of the meeting. Johnson expressed doubt that the mill levy proposal would succeed. He suggested that the district offer alternative mill increases on the ballot in addition to the currently proposed 14.9 mill levy increase. Rusnak inquired about his request for a revision of the May meeting minutes. Burns responded that the corrections had been made, but the minutes had yet to be posted online. Rusnak also cautioned that the meeting minutes not list wildland fire income as surplus since the board had clarified that wildland fire income was strictly reimbursement.

Professional firefighter Luke Jones and volunteer firefighter Tim Hampton reinforced their support for the mill levy

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