

may be collected and spent by the district?"

The ballot wording indicates that the reason for the tax increase measure is the reduction in property tax revenues for the district.

There is no mention of rescinding this increase when property tax values return to pre-recession levels.

The board went into executive session. Ingram affirmed

that there would be no further business following the executive session portion of the meeting.

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**FPD CONTINGENCY PLANS**  
(Cont. from page 1)

by 35 percent, from 8.5 mills to 11.5 mills—if it should fail. If it does, Resolution 12-005 defines proposed actions, including:

- Eliminating three operational line staff positions, reducing the operational staff to 33 (saves \$154,000)
- Closing Woodmoor Station 3 and redistributing the remaining staff to Stations 1 and 2 (saves \$34,000)
- Identifying additional cost-saving measures and further reduce service and staffing

Franz Hankins, president of Local 4319 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, asked that the union be allowed to examine the resolution and make a statement before the Sept. 26 regular board meeting. At that meeting, both 12-005 and another resolution, 12-004 (which would establish an annual spending plan and future mill levy reduction plan should the measure pass) will be formally voted on. A revised Resolution 12-005 will be discussed at that meeting.

The ballot measure was proposed as a way to make up for lowered income from property tax revenue due to decreased property values. That would make the measure a temporary bridge to

make up for lost revenue. But so far, there's been no discussion about a termination date for the increase, making it appear to be a permanent tax increase.

**Still no fire chief**

There was considerable discussion about the cost of hiring a fire chief and the ability to do so if the mill levy proposal fails. Board members said the budget may need to be rearranged to free up the funds, although nothing was discussed about cost reductions for other needs. They did say that other options to cut spending could make room for the salary for a new chief.

It was also mentioned that the personnel policy manual deems it appropriate that in-house promotion to chief be given consideration. Board members discussed the urgent need for leadership in this position as well as the possibility of

advertising nationally for the position. Director Roger Lance stated that he is aware of several national recruitment avenues that could be utilized. Continued discussion on the hiring of a fire chief was tabled until the results of the upcoming election are known.

Battalion Chief Bryan Jack told the board that the three battalion chiefs had met with a psychologist who would like to look at the district's testing process, not just for this hire, but also across the full spectrum of district positions.

**Timing for SAFER grant might not work**

Board President Bill Ingram said the district is under consideration for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) federal grant, which would provide full pay and benefits for six entry-level fire

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