

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY GROUP ("CAG")
TO
SAN JUAN ISLAND EMS ("SJIEMS")
SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT #1 ("SJCPHD #1")
SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #3 ("FD #3")
AND THE TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR ("TOWN")

MINUTES
Wednesday January 16, 2019
6:30 pm, 849 Spring Street, Suite B-5

CAG representatives:

Chuck Dalldorf, Town (chair)
George Johnson, SJCPHD #1
Dan Paulson, FD #3
Mark Tompkins, at large (vice chair)

Absent: Rick Frazer, at large

By Phone or teleconference: None

Others Present:

Nathan Butler
SJCPHD #1 Board Recording Sec.

John Kulseth
SJC Assessor

Milene Henley
SJC Auditor

Public Present: Anna Lisa Lindstrum, Warren Appleton, Karin Agosta, Richard Grout

Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Dalldorf called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Approve Minutes: By consent the group agreed that the minutes from January 2, 2019 were acceptable.

Approval of Increase for Administrative Support: By consent the group agreed to pay Nathan Butler \$30/hour as he is paid from Accounts Payable and must pay his own payroll taxes.

Discussion with John Kulseth, San Juan County Assessor, and Milene Henley, San Juan County Auditor (note: levy rates below expressed as a dollar value per \$1,000 assessed value in property taxes, e.g. \$0.50 per \$1,000)

John Kulseth noted that the easiest thing is just to do nothing, though not necessarily the best. The EMS levy does not expire until 2022, and can be lid lifted back up to \$0.50, the statutory maximum, at any time. Although EMS charges no fees to residents, it can do so, in order to achieve financial stability. EMS services can be provided by the

Town, County, Fire, or a hospital district. The 2019 levy rate for SJIEMS is approximately \$0.43. Kulseth stated that he had done the math, and an EMS levy under the Fire Department at \$0.50 appears to generate revenue slightly higher than the current hospital district EMS levy revenue (EMS boundaries are larger). Most changes can be done in any election, and only bonding has turnout requirements. If you have a separate EMS levy, then funds must be monitored separately.

Boundaries and election changes were discussed with both guests. Multiple boundary changes can be made at the same time if boundaries need to be aligned, but one Agency cannot run two levies with different boundaries (i.e. a District has boundaries, and its levy cannot exceed those boundaries). Multiple measures in an election can be linked to each other, such that if one fails, then the others fail automatically, by writing it into the text (note the length limit for a measure!). You can annex territory during any election, but may de-annex territory during a general election only.

Annexation rules can be complicated. Town annexation requires the Town Council's approval and then a vote of the residents. Territorial annexation requires a petition of the residents in the area to be annexed, and then an affirmative vote both for Districts involved.

Kulseth and Henley addressed two of the concerns that have been raised, namely the size of the Fire District Board and the lack of medical experience on that Board. There is no way to require certain backgrounds for commissioners. A Board can be expanded and elect those new commissioners at the same time in separate measures and candidates are likely to run that have appropriate background. If commissioners are elected but the vote to expand the Board fails, then both measures are invalid.

In terms of messaging: Auditor Henley concurred with past guests regarding annexation: if Town is annexed (thereby reducing its expenses, but its tax to the public remaining unchanged), the Town must agree to return to the public approximately half of what they current give to Fire in order for the public to agree to the new tax. The Town levy maximum can be reduced by certain things – such as Fire, but not EMS – however the Town of Friday Harbor is far away from its maximum rate.

In order to abandon the EMS levy in the event that Fire begins providing EMS services, Kulseth stated that the easiest thing to do is have the hospital district send in a statement to the assessor's office asking for \$0.00. He was not sure if it would still be a legal EMS levy such that it prevents Fire from establishing a separate EMS levy, but Fire could just lift its levy instead of establishing a separate EMS levy. Henley mentioned that the EMS Agency has a bond on its building, which would be an issue when retiring an EMS levy.

Auditor Henley answered a number of elections questions and gave a handout to the CAG which is posted on the website at the time of writing. She noted that general elections tend to cost less, and gave the dates when notice is required to propose a measure. She also had data on historical turnout, and a copy of the ballot measure from 1998 that moved the EMS levy to the hospital district (from Fire). Some new laws and ballot measures, such as the recent prepaid postage paid by state, has altered costs. The District and the District's legal counsel are responsible for the text of measures, and they County does not necessarily check to make sure they are written properly.

Both guests recommended consulting with an attorney.

Follow-up report process/New Business:

The group discussed the general drafting process. The group agreed that the final document should be primarily a print document (as opposed to an electronic version with links). The group also discussed whether and when the draft should be shared.

Meeting Times:

February schedule was maintained for February 6 and February 20th, but a meeting was added in January for January 30th.

Public Comment:

Karin Agosta, Warren Appleton, and Anna Lisa Lindstrum made comments during the meeting.

Adjournment: Chair Dalldorf adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.



Signed by Chair

Jan 30 2019
Date

The original document is retained at the San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 Office at 849 Spring Street, Unit B-5, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 in San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 permanent proceedings file.

Attest: Nathan Butler, Board Recording Secretary for SJCPHD #1