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Pierce County Auditor

DEC 14 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 141

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY DECLARING THE INTENT TO CONTINUE A VOTER-AUTHORIZED BENEFIT CHARGE EACH YEAR FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX (6) YEARS AND CALLING FOR AN ELECTION WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF A PROPOSITION TO CONTINUE THE VOTER-AUTHORIZED BENEFIT CHARGE ON IMPROVEMENTS TO REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE AUTHORITY FOR UP TO SIX (6) YEARS.

WHEREAS, the Valley Regional Fire Authority (Authority) is authorized by RCW 52.26.180 et seq. to establish, impose and collect a Benefit Charge on personal property and improvements to real property located within the Authority, which includes the cities of Algona, Auburn and Pacific, and,

WHEREAS, the Authority has heretofore received voter approval to so establish and impose a Benefit Charge, which was approved by the voters in 2006 for six years, and collection commenced in 2008, which was reauthorized by the voters in 2012 for collection commencing in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the Authority has determined that the regular property tax levy and other income for 2019 and subsequent years will not be sufficient to cover the operating costs of the Authority, in order to

maintain a satisfactory level of service by the Authority to its citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Authority's level of service provided for fire and emergency medical services will actually have to be reduced unless the Benefit Charge is continued; and

WHEREAS, the Benefit Charge will be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits that each property receives from the services by the Authority;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Benefit Charge. It is the declared intent of the Authority to continue the previously voter-authorized benefit charge on improvements to real property located within the Valley Regional Fire Authority service area, to be paid by the owners of such property.

Section 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 and establish the amount of the benefit charges for the subsequent year, pursuant to RCW 52.26.230.

Section 3. Effective Date. The continued benefit charge would be fixed and imposed on the affected property, effective January 1, 2019, if re-authorized by the voters.

Section 4. Notice of the Benefit Charge. Pursuant to RCW 52.26.230, property owners will be notified in writing of the benefit charge and the amounts thereof, subsequent to the public hearing referred to in Section 2 above, and prior to the formation or convening of a benefit charge review board by the Authority. Such review board shall be convened and available for a two week period, to hear and decide written complaints from aggrieved property owners who, in their opinion, have been charged improperly.

Section 5. Election. Pursuant to RCW 52.26.220, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the Authority for their approval or rejection, at the special election of February 13, 2018, the question whether to continue voter-authorized benefit charge for fire protection. The Administrator of the Authority is authorized and directed to request the Auditors of King and Pierce Counties to call said election, the ballot title for which is to be substantially as prescribed by RCW 52.26.220

BALLOT TITLE

PROPOSITION NO. _____

VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

Shall Valley Regional Fire Authority, serving the communities of Algona, Auburn and Pacific, be authorized to continue voter-authorized benefit charges each year for six years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.26.140(1)(c)?

____ YES ____ NO

DATED and SIGNED this 12th day of December 2017.

VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

Nancy Backus
Nancy K. Backus
Governing Board Chair

ATTEST:

Louise Bartol
Louise Bartol
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Joseph F. Quinn
Joseph F. Quinn
Counsel

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