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J-6 Mescal Skyline

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Mescal-J6 Fire District holding Public Hearing regarding 2015/2016 Proposed Budget.

The 5-member Governing Board has the highest level of Fidicuary Responsibility in the State - they are managing your tax dollars.

Bring your questions, understand the reason for your property tax increase.

Mescal-J6 Fire District
98 N. Oak Drive
Mescal, Arizona
6:30 P.M. June 1st

(For comfort walking back to your car, flash light is very helpful!)

PUBLIC HEARING FOR INCREASED FIRE DISTRICT BUDGETS

MON. JUNE 1ST

On June 1st, Mescal-J6 Fire District will be holding a Public Hearing to listen to your comments/questions regarding the proposed Fiscal Budget of $ 429,935.00 and the proposed Reserve Draft Budget of $ 251,746. (CDO questions regarding Payroll and Sustainability at end of article – keep reading!).

Real and Property Taxes are a significant source of Income to cover the budgeted expenses. The tax rate will need to increase from $1.22 to $1.37 per $100 of assessed valuation to collect the $ 217,157 tax levy needed (according to our math, approximately a 12% increase in your Fire District Tax Bill).

The combined total of Expenses for both Budgets as published is approximately $ 647,435. This Total assumed the District would be making purchases after receiving substantial Grants. Since Grant funding is very iffy, CDO adjusted the combined Expense Total as if no Grant monies were received or monies shifted back and forth between accounts. Total Expenses would then be approximately $ 365,700 with a carry over to the following year (2016/2017) of $ 69,200.

FOLLOWING ITEMS HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE COMBINED EXPENSES FROM BOTH BUDGETS (GRANT RELATED MONIES EXCLUDED):

Payroll	$ 118, 880.00
Vehicle Payments, Fuel and Maintenance	76,571.00
Building Improvements and Maintenance	38,900.00
Equipment Maintenance	12,354.00
Medical Supplies, Office, and Firefighting Equipment Purchases	26,700.00
Personal Protective Gear and Personal Protective Equipment Purchases	22,000.00

Besides taxes mentioned above, two additional sources of Income will be used to cover possible expenses: an anticipated $60,000 carry-over from the business year ending June 30th, 2015, and using $ 52,500 (more than half) of the Reserve Account where money is held for large Capital Outlay items such as buildings, land, vehicles, etc.

Click here to see Budgets posted on District's website.

Reported numbers in Article may vary from those posted on the F.D. Website since CDO used the Detailed Budgets which can be requested from the District.

SEVERAL OF THE QUESTIONS CDO WILL BE ASKING AT HEARING:

SUSTAINABILITY:

1. Are these budgets a part of a long range financial plan that supports the needs mentioned in monthly meetings such as replacing older vehicles, replacing aging gear and equipment and those improvements listed in the current 5-year plan?

2. Does this budget include a "contingency" fund – buffer to handle high dollar emergencies, etc.? What have you allotted?

J-6 FIRE PRESCRIBED BURN STILL BEING PLANNED

More info. as plans become more developed. Window for scheduling: Wednesday, June 3rd; Thursday, June 4th and all the following week. Night-time burn was briefly mentioned as possiblity.

MORE LATER.....

3. What is the minimum monthly amount of money that the District needs to carry over from one year to the next to keep operating until Tax Payments start arriving?

4 . What documents has the Board reviewed to feel comfortable starting the 2016/2017 Fiscal Year with a possible decrease of $100,000 in Income?

5 . Does THIS 2015/2016 budget need to be adjusted so thatthere is greater Carry Over to the following year in order to**maintain the current level of Staffing, TrainingProcurement/Replacement of items to assure Fire FighterSafety, Vehicle Operation, and Service?**

PAYROLL:

6. What is the average monthly expense for wages for current staffing level?

7. When looking at Payroll Expenses, it appears that the District has reduced payroll expenses from last year ($137,000) to this year ($118,880). Wages appear to be the same for both years. The approximate $18,000 cut is in Insurance – Accident and Sickness Policy, and for Workmen's Comp. Can you explain why? Are you decreasing the benefits of the firefighters?

REMINDER - PUBLIC HEARING NOW ON JUNE 1ST AT 6:30.

PLEASE PASS ON TO A NEIGHBOR!

If you would like to see details regarding numbers in article, please send request to info@cdonewsletter.com.

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