



Meeting Date: 06/14/2022

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TO: Honorable Chair and Members of the Board

FROM: Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Public Hearing, consideration and possible action regarding the proposed West Coconino Fire Rescue District.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

The Board will need to do a motion to deny or approve the proposed West Coconino Fire Rescue District, based off of the findings of the review of petitions.

BACKGROUND:

On April 5, 2021, the Clerk of the Board's Office received an Impact Statement for the Proposed West Coconino Fire Rescue District. The Impact Statement was submitted by Robert Trotter, the current Fire Chief for High Country Fire Rescue, which is a nonprofit organization. The Impact Statement included the proposed district description, estimate in property tax valuation and liability, benefits of the proposed district, injuries from forming the district, budget and planning for district, names, addresses and occupations of the organizing fire district Board of Directors, and a detailed list of taxable properties provided by the Assessor as required by A.R.S. 48-261.

Per A.R.S. 48-261A(4), the Board of Supervisors had a public hearing on May 11, 2021 to hear from those for and against the proposed district and determined that the creation of the district would promote public health, comfort, convenience, necessity or welfare and approved the proposed district impact statement and authorized the circulation of petitions via Resolution 2021-18. After that hearing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors provided Mr. Trotter a "Letter of Determination," as required by A.R.S. 48-261(A)(5). The Letter of Determination set the clock for Mr. Trotter to circulate his petitions and submit them within one year from the date the Board approved of him circulating petitions which was May 11, 2021. The Letter of Determination also explained the requirements pertaining to the petitions - the number that would need to be collected and the assessed valuation requirements.

Based on the District Impact Statement submitted and information from the Assessor's Office, there was a total number of 515 parcels in the proposed district boundary to be included in the district. The total primary net assessed valuation for those properties was \$2,949,484. Pursuant to A.R.S. §48-261(A)(7)(b), the petitions must, "be signed by owners of more than one-half of the taxable property units in the area of the proposed district and be signed by persons owning

collectively more than one-half of the assessed valuation of the property in the area of the proposed district." Property exempt pursuant to title 42, chapter 11, article 3 shall not be considered in determining the total assessed valuation of the proposed district nor shall owners of property not subject to taxation be eligible to sign petitions. Per the County Assessor's Office, there were two parcels within the proposed district boundary/parcel owner list that are not taxable properties.

To create the West Coconino Fire Rescue District, the applicant must receive (and the County must validate as statutorily compliant) enough petitions to represent the ownership of at least 257 taxable parcels within the proposed district boundary, which must also represent at least \$1,396,386.01 of primary net assessed valuation.

Mr. Trotter submitted the petitions he collected on May 10, 2022. The petitions were provided to the Assessor's Office for review. On May 23, 2022, the Assessor's Office provided their Report of Findings to the Board of Supervisors.

The Assessor's Office is required to follow guidelines upon the review of the petitions as outlined in A.R.S. Statute 48-261 (attached).

Assessor's Summary of Report of Findings:

Of the 515 units (accounts) associated with the proposal of the West Coconino Fire Rescue district, 404 unique owners were identified & 110 valid signatures collected resulting in 27.2% of owners in favor of the district. Those 110 property owners collectively own property totaling \$1,014,395 in assessed value or 34.4% of the initial assessed value of \$2,949,484.

Please note: Duplicate petition pages, duplicate owner signatures and signatures affiliated with delinquent real property accounts are considered invalid and were removed from the final calculations.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board is required by statute 48-261(A)(8) to have a hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the County.

SUMMARY:

NOTHING

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 - Staff Report - 6/3/2022 - -
- 2 - Supporting Document - STATUTES FOR FIRE DISTRICT CREATION - 5/26/2022
- 3 - Supporting Document - IMPACT STATEMENT - 5/25/2022
- 4 - Supporting Document - LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND MAP - 5/25/2022
- 5 - Supporting Document - RESOLUTION 2021-18 - 5/25/2022
- 6 - Supporting Document - LETTER OF DETERMINATION - 5/25/2022
- 7 - Supporting Document - PETITION SIGNATURES - 5/26/2022
- 8 - Supporting Document - ASSESSOR'S REVIEW