



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: June 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7A: Consideration of Providing Direction on a Potential Special Tax Measure to Address the Revenue Shortfall for the Groveland Fire Department

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

I move to direct staff to work with the consultant NBS to evaluate and determine the best Special Tax structure and Appropriation methodology to be used to fund Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services.

BACKGROUND:

For the past five years, the District's Board of Director's have been closely monitoring the financial condition of its Fire Department and evaluating options to keep the Department fully functioning permanently and meeting our response time standards. In 2020, the District entered into a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with the County and other Fire Departments for the purpose of placing a County wide Fire Funding Measure on the Ballot. Unfortunately, "Measure V" failed and the Joint Powers Authority was dissolved.

The Fire Department is currently in a financial condition where we could only enter into a 2-year Agreement with CalFire; of which we are in the second year. We expect that by June 30th, 2025, we will not have enough funding for the Fire Department to continue its contract with CalFire. We have discussed many times that starting our own Fire Department would likely cost more and would certainly not cost less than our current contract.

The Board has also given clear direction to management on many occasions that it intends to maintain a solid Fire Department and will support all means to make that happen. We were hoping to have a Fire Department funding measure on the November 2024 Ballot, but the County stepped forward with a Sales Tax Measure for that same Ballot, with the intent to provide long term funding for its Fire and Emergency Services. This is very important to our District, as without the additional funding they will likely not be able to continue funding the second staffed engine in Groveland.

Ballot Measures for a tax in this County have been very unsuccessful, but those in Groveland have done a bit better primarily because we would lose our services without that funding. Placing a GCSB Fire Special Tax on the Ballot at the same time as the County

would most certainly result in both measures being defeated. Therefore, it is staff's recommendation that we proceed with a Special Election following the November Election. Knowing the success of the County's funding measure will also be helpful in knowing the level of service we need to provide locally, and its cost.

FISCAL IMPACT:

We received proposals in this current fiscal year that were nearly \$80,000; double what we had in the budget. Staff decided that since this is a simple equation, of the cost of the Schedule A contract and equipment replacement, the District could do the heavy lifting in developing the Special Tax methodology. An amount of \$40,000 is budgeted in the 2024/25 Fiscal Year Budget to fund Special Tax Consultant work to ensure that our tax calculation methodologies are solid, and to assist us with the process of getting this revenue measure on the Ballot for a Special Election.

ATTACHMENTS:

None