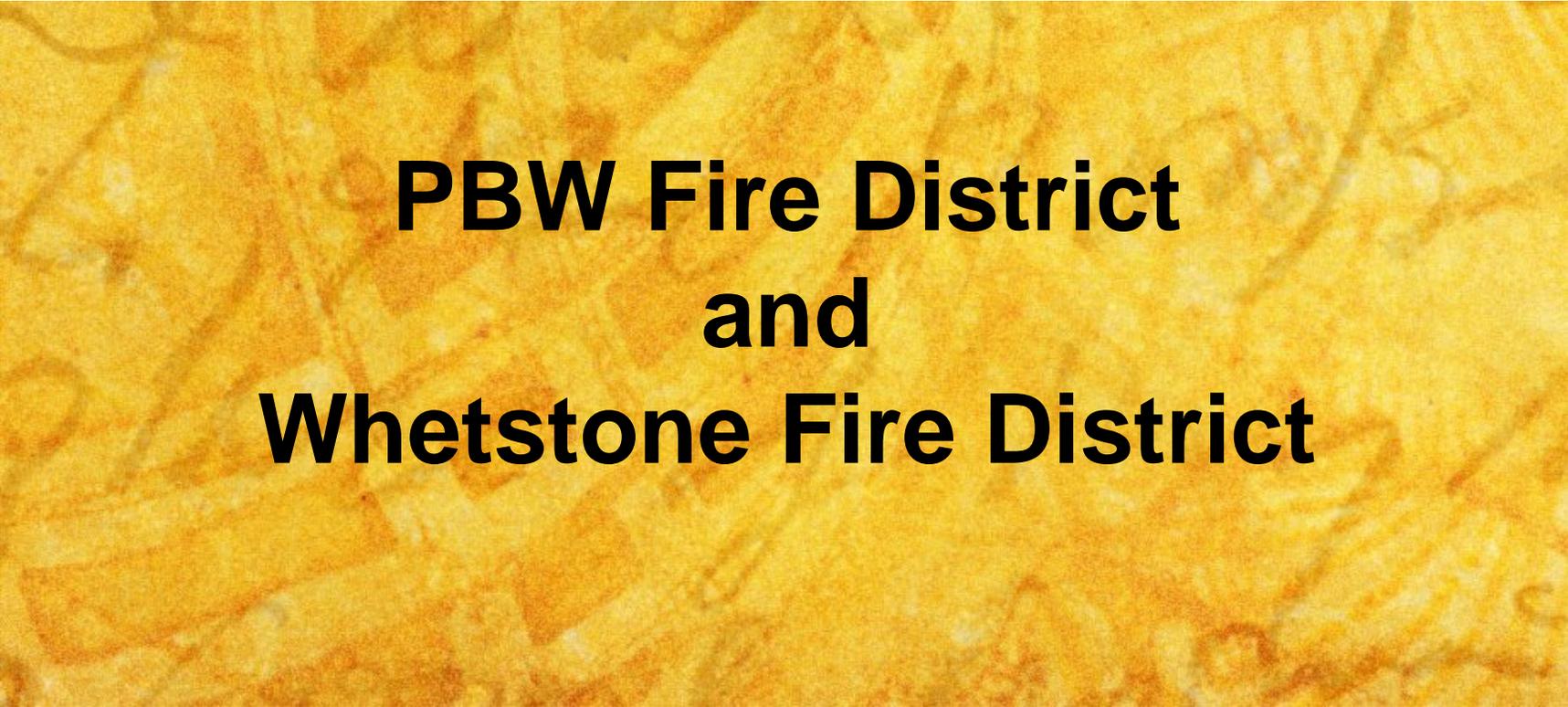




# Fire District Consolidation



**PBW Fire District  
and  
Whetstone Fire District**

# Fire District Consolidation

- **A.R.S. § 48-822**
- **Process for consolidation began in November of 2012.**
- **PBW Fire District passed a resolution requesting consolidation into the Whetstone Fire District.**
- **Whetstone Fire District, upon receiving the resolution from PBW Fire District, passed a resolution for the consolidation of the two fire districts.**
- **Both fire districts passed a resolution setting a public hearing and by “unanimous” vote declared that the consolidation will promote the public health, comfort, convenience or welfare and best interest.**

# Fire District Consolidation

- List of property owners obtained from the Assessor's Office and a copy of the notice of the public hearing was mailed to all property owners on January 14, 2015. Notice contained:
  - A description of proposed boundaries showing current boundaries of each district.
  - Map
  - Estimated total assessed value of the consolidated district.

■ PBW FD	\$ 2,753,854
■ Whetstone FD	\$17,161,055
■ Consolidated FD	\$19,914,909
  - Estimated change in property tax for a "typical resident"

# Fire District Consolidation

- **Current Whetstone Fire District tax rate is \$2.95 per hundred dollars of secondary assessed value.**
- **Current PBW Fire District tax rate is \$2.10 per hundred dollars of secondary assessed value.**
- **If consolidated the estimated tax rate would be \$2.95 per hundred dollars of assessed value for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. This would result in an \$0.85 per hundred dollars of secondary assessed value for the PBW Fire District property owners.**
- **Example: Property value \$100,000, currently pay PBW Fire tax of \$210.00, with consolidation would pay \$295.00, an \$85 dollar increase in property tax beginning in July 2015.**
- **Whetstone Fire District property owners would not see an increase in property taxes.**

# Fire District Consolidation

- **BENEFITS and INJURIES of the consolidated districts:**
  - **INJURIES** – increase of property taxes for property owners in the PBW Fire District.
  - **BENEFITS** – consolidated district would have a governing board, currently PBW Fire has an appointed administrator. There have not been candidates for the fire board for the past several elections.
    - Currently PBW Fire District contracts for fire protection and operational services from Whetstone Fire District, if fire district consolidated funds could be used towards repairs to PBW fire station to make it possible for staff to be there 24/7.
    - Whetstone Fire District covers the PBW Fire District area for ambulance service, if consolidated, cost for ambulance service would be lower and the goal is to have an ambulance stationed at the PBW fire station for quicker response.
    - Additional tax dollars would go towards repairs and updating of emergency vehicles and fire gear that PBW currently has no funds to complete.
    - Whetstone Fire has staffing to cover PBW Fire area, PBW has not had volunteer fire fighters since before contract with Whetstone Fire for

# Fire District Consolidation

- **Finally the date/time/place of the public hearing included in the notice- February 9, 2015 at 6:00 pm**
- **Published public notice twice in the Sierra Vista Herald at least 10 days before the public meeting.**
- **Notice posted in three conspicuous places.**

# Fire District Consolidation

- **Copy of public notice is also sent to the Board of Supervisors, along with the resolutions.**
  - **Board of Supervisors has 10 days to submit written comments, which must be before the public hearing. Here today to answer any questions for the Board of Supervisors – January 27, 2015.**
  - **These comments are considered at the public hearing to be held on February 9, 2015.**
- **At the public hearing both fire district boards will consider the Board of Supervisors comments, public input and comments by fire district board members.**
- **Both fire districts pass a resolution that consolidation “will promote the public health, comfort, convenience or welfare” of both districts. Copy sent to Board of Supervisors.**
- **If the vote of both fire districts is unanimous and there being no property owner who owns 30% or more of the net assessed valuation, there is no need for an election to consolidate.**

# Fire District Consolidation

- **Whetstone Fire District will then pass a resolution declaring the fire district consolidated and the new name of the fire district will be the Whetstone Fire District.**
- **The governing board must be a five member board, which Whetstone Fire District currently has. At the next governing board member elections, candidates living within the current PBW Fire District boundaries are eligible to run for a seat on the governing board.**

# Fire District Consolidation

**Questions???**