



01/14/2014

To: All Property Owners in Whetstone Fire District
All Property Owners in PBW Fire District

From: Peter Bidon, Fire Chief, Whetstone Fire District
Tom Schelling, Administrator, PBW Fire District

Re: Consolidation of the Presidential Estates/ Babocomari/ Woody Hills (PBW) Fire District
and the Whetstone Fire District

This letter is to inform you, the Property Owners of Presidential Estates/ Babocomari/ Woody Hills (PBW) Fire District and the Whetstone Fire District, of the proposed consolidation of the two districts pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute § 48-822. The Board of the Whetstone Fire District and the Administrator of PBW Fire District have scheduled a public hearing for January 29th 2015, commencing at 6 pm to be located at the Whetstone Fire Station 2422 N. Firehouse Lane, Huachuca City, Arizona to determine whether consolidation would be in the best interest of the districts and would promote the public health, comfort, convenience, necessity or welfare. All interested members of the public may attend and be heard.

Since January 1, 2014, PBW Fire District has contracted with Whetstone Fire District for administrative and operational services. If consolidated, the PBW Fire District will become part of the Whetstone Fire District. The Governing Boards of both districts, as well as the Administrator of PBW Fire District, have approved resolutions to proceed with consolidation. Enclosed is a map showing the boundaries of the proposed consolidated district and a legal description of it. These are also available on the internet at Whetstonefire.org.

The current Whetstone Fire District tax rate is \$2.95 per hundred dollars of secondary assessed value. The current PBW Fire District tax rate is \$2.10 per hundred dollars of secondary assessed value. If consolidated, the new Fire District tax rate is estimated to be \$2.95 per hundred dollars of secondary assessed value. This would result in no change for Whetstone Fire District taxpayers, but would result in an increase of \$0.85 per hundred dollars of secondary assessed value for PBW Fire District taxpayers.

Example: if the secondary assessed value of your property is \$100,000, you currently pay PBW Fire tax of \$210.00; under the proposed consolidation at a tax rate of \$2.95 per





2422 N Firehouse Lane - Huachuca City, AZ 85616

secondary assessed value, you would pay \$295.00, an increase of \$85.00 dollars per year. This would be effective beginning in the 2015 tax year.

The current assessed value of all property in the Whetstone Fire District is \$17,161,055 and in PBW the total is \$2,753,854. The assessed value of the consolidated District would be \$19,914,909.

If, after the public hearing, the Board of the Whetstone Fire District and the Administrator of PBW Fire District unanimously approve consolidation, the consolidation will go into effect immediately, without an election. If the Board and Administrator approve consolidation by a majority, but not unanimously, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors will call for an election on consolidation, to be held on March 10, 2015. At an election, if a majority of the registered voters in each District vote for consolidation, the Districts will be consolidated. The Districts would be required to reimburse Cochise County for the costs of the election.

If consolidated, the Whetstone Fire District Board would govern the consolidated District.

Questions or comments on the proposed consolidation should be directed to Whetstone Fire District Chief Pete Bidon at pbidon@whetstonefire.org or PBW Fire District Administrator Tom Schelling at tschelling@cochise.az.gov.

Respectfully,

Peter M. Bidon
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