

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue



www.cwfire.org

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Fire Station 53
1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239
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News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island

Fire Station Renovation & Expansion Update

In the November 2017 General Election, the District's voters passed a bond measure for renovation and expansion of Station 53 on Race Road and purchase of three fire engines. We appreciate your support and will work diligently to bring this project to successful conclusion on time and within budget.



Station 53 - Race Road

The District worked with our bond attorney, bond underwriter, and Standard & Poors, gaining an exceptional AAA bond rating and subsequently sold bonds to provide the \$7,376,000 authorized for these capital projects.

After evaluating qualifications of multiple architectural firms with extensive experience in fire station design, the District selected Carletti Architects P.S. to provide architectural and engineering services for the fire station renovation and expansion project. The first step in the renovation and expansion project will be to finalize the design concepts for the renovation and expansion as well as completing survey and pre-design structural and civil engineering necessary for production of plans and the construction bid process.

Learn About Fire



Fire is fast! A fire can spread from a single object to full involvement of a room and fill a house with smoke in less than three and one half minutes. Fire is hot! Temperatures in a room fire can quickly rise to over 1000° F, spreading hot gases throughout the house. Fire is Dark! Flames are bright, but fires quickly produce dark smoke that makes it impossible to see. Fire is deadly! Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames. Poisonous gases make you disoriented, drowsy, and can quickly kill you.

Three ways you can protect yourself are: Have working smoke alarms, a home escape plan, and sleep with your bedroom door closed! Schedule a home safety survey (www.cwfire.org or (360) 678-3602) to learn more!

Protect Your Family!

Potential injuries from falls or home fires are major risks among the District's older population. Schedule a home safety survey today (www.cwfire.org or (360) 678-3602) to learn more about how you can reduce your risk and help us build a safer community.





2018 Fire District Budget

Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue has seen a dramatic increase in demand for service over the last seven years with call volumes increasing by 50%. However, the District has been able to meet this demand with modest budget increases that are within the District's Long Term Financial Plan (CWIFR, 2017a). The 2018 Adopted District Budget is 1.38% higher than in 2017 and budgeted funds provide for improvement over current service delivery levels with continued efforts to increase volunteer staffing. Overall, the District is fiscally healthy, maintains a balanced budget, and has sufficient revenue to meet current operational needs and maintain an adequate ending balance in the General Fund.

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue's Strategic Plan (CWIFR 2016a) defined two strategic goals that directly impact on the District's fiscal management and budget process: to be fiscally responsible and operate with transparency, and ensure adequate and sustainable funding. Each of the District's strategic goals is supported by initiatives guiding the work necessary to move our organization forward in a direction that is consistent with the Strategic Plan.

Fiscal Responsibility

As an element of the District's initiative to develop, maintain, and operate under sound fiscal policy and procedure, the Board of Fire Commissioners has adopted an updated set of financial policies to provide a solid basis for fiscal responsibility. The District's achievement of a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's in 2017 reflects the District's sound financial policies and management.

Transparency

The District's initiative to engage the community in building awareness and understanding of the District's fiscal and policy making processes is supported by ongoing communication with our citizens and other stakeholders. The District provides a Budget Summary to District residents via the District's newsletter, web site, and social media. In addition, the complete Budget Document is also available for download on its website. In addition, the Monthly Budget Position Report, Annual Financial Reports, and Audit Reports are posted monthly and are available for download from the District's web site.

Adequate Funding

The Assessed Value (AV) of taxable property within the District decreased 16.35% between 2010 and 2014. Since, 2014, AV increased 12.78% because of rebounding property values and new construction. Based on historical data, we anticipate that AV will continue to increase at a modest rate which will maintain district current tax revenue and continue to reduce the District's regular levy rate. However, Washington State's 1% constitutional limitation on increases in tax revenue continues to challenge the District in keeping pace with increased demand for service.

Fiscal Sustainability

Due to constitutional and statutory limits on taxation, the District has faced a challenge in maintaining current service delivery levels beyond 2023 and has not had sufficient revenue to address important capital facility needs. In November 2017, the District's voters passed a \$7,376,000 bond measure to fund the District's most pressing capital facilities improvements and replacement of major fire apparatus. Passage of this bond measure allows the District to borrow funds for major capital expenditures with a separate tax levy to fund the debt service (payment on borrowed funds). This reduces demand on current revenue for capital expenditures and preserves the general levy to meet the expense of ongoing operational requirements.

The District's complete Adopted Budget is available for download from our web site. We welcome feedback on our budget document. Please contact me via e-mail (ehartin@cwfire.org), telephone (360) 678-3602, or stop by our headquarters station at 1164 Race Road.

Sincerely,

Chief Ed Hartin

General Fund	Actual 2016	Adjusted 2017	Adopted 2018
Beginning General Fund Balance	\$2,331,498	\$2,628,225	\$2,541,748
Contingency (Administrative) Fund (10% of M&O)	\$190,745	\$227,410	\$230,532
Beginning GF Balance (Less Contingency)	\$2,140,753	\$2,400,815	\$2,311,216
Revenue			
Taxes	\$2,228,270	\$2,282,958	\$2,305,765
State Generated Revenue	\$10,601	\$14,476	\$14,476
Charges for Service	\$217,959	\$219,515	\$219,515
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$25,217	\$16,784	\$13,599
Other Revenue	\$12,894	\$2,500	\$2,500
Investment Interest	\$6,921	\$2,500	\$5,701
Total Operating Revenues	\$2,501,863	\$2,538,733	\$2,561,556
Expenditures			
Regular Budgeted Expenditures (M&O General Fund)	\$1,907,446	\$2,274,096	\$2,305,317
Contingency Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0
Investment Fee	\$249	\$300	\$300
Total Expenditures	\$1,907,696	\$2,274,396	\$2,305,617
Interfund Transfers			
To General Capital Projects Fund	\$288,000	\$349,000	\$203,745
To Compensated Absences Fund	\$9,440	\$1,814	\$1,431
To Grants Management Fund	\$0	\$0	\$1,186
To Debt Service Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Transfers From General Fund	\$297,440	\$350,814	\$206,362
Ending General Fund Balance			
Contingency (Administrative) Fund Ending Balance	\$190,745	\$227,410	\$230,532
Ending GF Balance (Less Contingency)	\$2,437,480	\$2,314,338	\$2,360,792
Total Ending General Fund Balance	\$2,628,225	\$2,541,748	\$2,591,324
Capital Projects Fund	Actual 2016	Adjusted 2017	Adopted 2018
Beginning Capital Projects Fund Balance	\$1,074,998	\$1,331,031	\$1,573,738
Revenue			
Investment Interest	\$4,535	\$0	\$3,364
Interfund Transfers			
From General Fund	\$288,000	\$349,000	\$203,745
Expenditures			
Investment Fee	\$92	\$92	\$92
Vouchers (Capital Projects Fund)	\$36,410	\$106,200	\$337,000
Ending Capital Projects Fund Balance	\$1,331,031	\$1,573,738	\$1,443,755
Bond Fund	Actual 2016	Adjusted 2017	Adopted 2018
Beginning Bond Fund Balance	\$7	\$7	\$7,424,544
Revenue			
Bond Revenue	\$0	\$7,424,537	\$0
Investment Interest	\$0	\$0	\$15,603
Interfund Transfers			
To Debt Service Fund			\$2,337
Expenditures			
Vouchers (Bond Fund)	\$0	\$0	\$376,327
Ending Bond Fund Balance	\$7	\$7,424,544	\$7,045,880
Debt Service Fund	Actual 2016	Adjusted 2017	Adopted 2018
Beginning Debt Service Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue			
Property Taxes (Voter Approved Debt)	\$0	\$0	\$361,769
Interfund Transfers			
From Bond Fund	\$0	\$0	\$2,337
Expenditures			
Vouchers (Debt Service)	\$0	\$0	\$361,769
Ending Debt Service Balance	\$0	\$0	\$2,337
Compensated Absences Trust Fund	Actual 2016	Adjusted 2017	Adopted 2018
Beginning Compensated Absences Balance	\$17,684	\$27,170	\$29,047
Revenue			
Investment Interest	\$45	\$64	\$67
Interfund Transfers			
From General Fund	\$9,440	\$1,814	\$1,431
Expenditures			
Investment Fee	\$1	\$25	\$25
Vouchers (Compensated Absences)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ending Compensated Absences Balance	\$27,170	\$29,047	\$30,545
Grants Management Fund	Actual 2016	Adjusted 2017	Adopted 2018
Beginning Grants Management Balance	\$0	\$0	\$23,734
Revenue			
Grants	\$0	\$23,734	\$0
Interfund Transfers			
From General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$1,186
Expenditures			
Vouchers (Grants Management)	\$0	\$0	\$24,920
Ending Grants Management Balance	\$0	\$23,734	\$0
All Funds	Actual 2016	Adjusted 2017	Adopted 2018
Total Ending Balance (All Funds)	\$3,986,425	\$4,144,533	\$4,065,624

Central Whidbey Island Fire Rescue
1164 Race Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

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Be Firewise

As summer approaches, wildfire risk is closer than you might think. Fuels, prevailing winds, and topography are the key factors in determining a home's ignitability during a wildfire incident. On the west side of Whidbey, communities tucked within forested areas along the dry, bluff zones that receive prevailing west winds in summer are more at risk. Through Firewise, homeowners can take proactive steps to understand the science behind home ignitability, and techniques to reduce the risk to your home in the event of a wildfire.

Did you know that Central Whidbey, specifically, is more at risk because it receives significantly less precipitation than north and south Whidbey Island? In the dry summer months of June - September, drier, fine fuels coupled with westerly winds and steep slopes increase the hazard of wildfire risk to rural residents. Those who live in forested communities near the bluff north or south of this rain shadow zone can still benefit to learn about Firewise, even though their risk may be less .

Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) & Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) can help. Contact us (www.cwfire.org or (360) 678-3602) for information or to schedule a Firewise Home Assessment .



Calendar of Events

May 10, 2018 Regular Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53

May 22, 2018 Special Commissioners Meeting
Annual Policy Review
10:00 am at Station 53

May 26, 2018 CPR/First Aid
9:00 am at Station 53

June 14, 2018 Regular Commissioners Meeting
7:00 pm at Station 53

June 23, 2018 CPR/First Aid
7:00 pm at Station 53

July 12, 2018 Commissioners Meeting
5:00 pm at Station 53

July 28, 2018 CPR/First Aid
9:00 am at Station 53

Station 53 is located at 1164 Race Road in Coupeville, just east of the intersection of State Routes 20 and 525.



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