

# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue



[www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)

News and Information for the Residents of Central Whidbey Island

## Progress on Station 53 Expansion

In November 2017, the District’s voters passed a bond for renovation and expansion of Station 53 on Race Road. Earlier this year we selected Carletti Architects for this project and began the process of refining the design based on the District’s current and future needs. After civil, structural, and electrical engineering assessment of the existing facility, our architect determined that it would be more cost effective to build a new building rather than completing the extremely substantial renovation required to meet current seismic and energy efficiency code requirements. The new fire station will be located in front of the existing building, but part of the building will overlap the existing building footprint.



South Elevation



East Elevation

The new station will have one less apparatus bay than the current station, but substantially more apparatus and fleet maintenance space due to increased building depth. In addition, the station includes living quarters for the on-duty crew and expanded training and support services space. The District is currently in the permitting process with Island County and hopes to break ground in late summer or fall of 2019.

## Chief’s Budget Message



The District has experienced a 44.89% increase in demand for service in the last 10 years (2007-2017). The District has been able to meet this demand with modest budget increases that are within the bounds established in the District’s Long-Term Financial Plan (CWIFR, 2018b). The 2019 Proposed District budget is 2.02% higher than in 2018 but does not include compensation increases for full-time employees represented by Local 4299 International Association of Firefighters. The current collective bargaining agreement between Local 4299 and the District expires on December 31, 2018 and negotiations are pending. *Continued on Page 3*

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**CWIFR Headquarters**  
**Fire Station 53**  
1164 Race Road  
Coupeville, WA 98239  
(360) 678-3602

## Be Safe!

Regardless of the age of your home, Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue will check your smoke alarms, install smoke alarms if you do not have them, and help you develop a plan to minimize your risk from fire or injury by conducting a Home Safety Survey.

You can request a home safety survey on the District’s web site ([www.cwfire.org](http://www.cwfire.org)) by clicking on Services or by telephone at (360) 678-3602. **Let us be there before you need us!**



## 2019 Proposed District Budget

General Fund	Actual 2017	Adjusted 2018	Proposed 2019
Beginning General Fund Balance	\$2,628,225	\$2,775,233	\$2,823,853
Revenue	\$2,522,526	\$2,561,600	\$2,600,591
Expenditures	\$2,024,704	\$2,306,617	\$2,352,089
Interfund Transfers	\$350,814	\$206,363	\$240,479
Total Ending General Fund Balance	\$2,775,233	\$2,823,853	\$2,831,875
<b>Capital Projects Fund</b>			
Beginning Capital Projects Fund Balance	\$1,331,031	\$1,664,918	\$1,749,488
Revenue	\$7,888	\$2,972	\$3,364
Interfund Transfers (From General Fund)	\$349,000	\$203,746	\$205,119
Expenditures	\$23,001	\$122,149	\$426,303
Ending Capital Projects Fund Balance	\$1,664,918	\$1,749,488	\$1,531,668
<b>Bond Fund</b>			
Beginning Bond Fund Balance	\$7	\$7,424,544	\$7,175,205
Revenue	\$7,424,537	\$449,269	\$432,700
Interfund Transfers (to Debt Service Fund)		\$364,106	\$372,700
Expenditures		\$334,502	\$5,136,305
Ending Bond Fund Balance	\$7,424,544	\$7,175,205	\$2,098,900
<b>Debt Service Fund</b>			
Beginning Debt Service Balance	\$0	\$0	\$2,337
Interfund Transfers (from Bond Fund)	\$0	\$364,106	\$372,700
Expenditures	\$0	\$361,769	\$372,700
Ending Debt Service Balance	\$0	\$2,337	\$2,337
<b>Compensated Absences Trust Fund</b>			
Beginning Compensated Absences Balance	\$27,169	\$29,161	\$30,583
Revenue	\$182		\$71
Interfund Transfers (from General Fund)	\$1,814	\$1,431	\$35,360
Expenditures	\$0	\$8	\$22,385
Ending Compensated Absences Balance	\$29,161	\$30,583	\$43,629
<b>Grants Management Fund</b>			
Beginning Grants Management Balance	\$0	\$24,920	\$0
Revenue	\$23,734	\$25,000	\$25,000
Interfund Transfers (from General Fund)	\$1,186	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$49,920	\$25,000
Ending Grants Management Balance	\$24,920	\$0	\$0
<b>All Funds</b>			
Total Ending Balance (All Funds)	\$11,918,776	\$11,781,466	\$6,508,410

## **Chief's Budget Message (continued)**

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 enough 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***

The District maintains financial policies and guidelines to provide a solid basis for fiscal responsibility. These policies reflect best practices identified by the Government Finance Officers Association and Category 4 Fiscal Resources criteria as specified in the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) Fire & Emergency Service Self-Assessment Manual (2015). The District's AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's reflects the District's sound financial policies and fiscal 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. The complete Budget Document is available for download on our website. In addition, the Monthly Budget Position, Annual Financial 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 21.06% because of rebounding property values and new construction. Based on historical data, we anticipate that AV will continue to increase at close to historical levels which will maintain the District's ability to increase tax revenue 1% annually while reducing 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.

The District's Interlocal agreement with Whidbey Island Hospital District (dba WhidbeyHealth) to staff a Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance has been level funded for five years. This agreement provides funding necessary to maintain the District's part-time operational staffing. Increases to the minimum wage significantly impacts expense of maintaining the District's part-time staffing. Negotiations with WhidbeyHealth are underway to address funding of the Interlocal agreement for staffing of the BLS ambulance to address increased service delivery costs.

In November 2017, the District's voters passed a \$7,376,000 capital facilities and apparatus bond measure. This allowed the District to borrow funds for major capital expenditures with a separate tax levy to fund the debt service (payment on borrowed funds). This reduced demand on current revenue for major capital expenditures and preserved the general levy to meet the expense of ongoing operational requirements and other programmed capital projects.

### ***Adequate Funding***

Due to constitutional and statutory limits on taxation, the District has and continues to face a challenge in maintaining and improving current service delivery levels beyond 2026. The District's Long-Term Financial Plan, updated and adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners in 2018 presented a strategy to address these issues.

We welcome feedback on the proposed District budget and 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

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

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## Santamobile Schedule



We have worked with Santa to provide advance notice of the 2018 schedule.

December 1	Greening of Coupeville Parade
December 3	Town of Coupeville (North)
December 5	Town of Coupeville (South)
December 12	Parker, Long Point, Rhodena, Harrington Lagoon
December 14	Ledgewood, Bon Air, Teronda, Elwood Drive
December 17	North Bluff, Holmes Harbor
December 19	Lagoon Point, Dines Point, Honeymoon Bay
December 21	Race Road, Shangri La, Admirals Cove

In November, a downloadable Santamobile map and schedule will be available on the District's web site and our Facebook page. In addition, we will provide satellite tracking of the Santamobile in real time so that you can follow our progress on your computer or smart phone. Stay tuned for updates!

## Calendar of Events

**December 13, 2018 Commissioners Meeting**  
5:00 pm at Station 53

**December 15, 2018 CPR & First Aid Class**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

**January 10, 2019 Commissioners Meeting**  
5 pm at Station 53

**January 25, 2018 CPR & First Aid Class**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

**February 14, 2019 Commissioners Meeting**  
5 pm at Station 53

**February 23, 2018 CPR & First Aid Class**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Station 53

**March 9, 2019 Household Emergencies Class *NEW!***  
9:00 am to 12:00 am at Station 53

**March 14, 2019 Commissioners Meeting**  
5 pm at Station 53

**March 23, 2018 CPR & First Aid Class**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm 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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