

FORSYTH COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**BRIEFING
DRAFT**

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2019 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 1

SUBJECT:

- A. PUBLIC HEARING ON DEFINING AND ESTABLISHING THE COUNTYWIDE SERVICE DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**
- B. RESOLUTION DEFINING AND ESTABLISHING THE COUNTYWIDE SERVICE DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ COUNTY MANAGER DATE: _____

**RESOLUTION DEFINING AND ESTABLISHING THE COUNTYWIDE
SERVICE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

WHEREAS N.C.G.S. 153A-301 and 153A-309.2 authorize the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners to establish and define a service district in order to finance, provide, or maintain for the district certain services in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire county;

WHEREAS in determining whether to establish the Countywide Service District to provide fire protection services, the Board considered the population and population density of the proposed district, the appraised value of property subject to taxation in the proposed district, the present tax rates of the County and any special districts in which the district or any portion thereof is located, the ability of the proposed district to sustain the additional taxes necessary to provide the services planned for the district, and any other matters that the Commissioners believe to have a bearing on whether the district should be established, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-302(a);

WHEREAS, upon the information and evidence it has received, the Board finds there is a demonstrable need and demand by the persons living in the proposed Countywide Service District for providing fire protection in the district;

WHEREAS the Board further finds it is impracticable to provide the fire protection services across the entire county, and it is economically feasible to provide these services within the proposed service district without unreasonable or burdensome annual tax levies;

WHEREAS the Board approved on February 14, 2019, a Resolution Defining and Establishing the Maximum Property Tax Rate for the Proposed Countywide Service District to Provide Fire Protection Services, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-309.2(a);

WHEREAS a Report on Establishing the Proposed Countywide Service District for Fire Protection Services in Forsyth County has been prepared containing a map of the proposed Countywide Service District, showing its proposed boundaries, a statement showing that the proposed service district favorably meets the standards set forth in N.C.G.S. 153A-302(a), and a plan for providing the needed fire protection services; and a copy of the said Report has been available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk to the Board for more than two weeks before the date of the required public hearing before adopting a resolution defining a new service district, and the Notice and Report is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, it has been duly certified to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners that Notice of Public Hearing on the establishment of the Countywide Service District for fire protection services was duly published in accordance with the provisions of N.C.G.S. 153A-309.2(b);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. The Countywide Service District is hereby defined and established, as more fully described in the attached Notice of Public Hearing and Report on Establishing the Proposed Countywide Service District for Fire Protection Services in Forsyth County, for the purpose of providing needed fire protection services within said district area.
2. The Forsyth County Tax Assessor/Collector shall levy a special tax in an amount to be determined by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners on behalf of Forsyth County within said service district in addition to those levied throughout the County in order to finance, provide and maintain fire protection services within the newly defined and established service district in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire County.
3. This resolution defining and establishing the Countywide Service District to provide fire protection services shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

Adopted this the 14th day of March 2019.

Notice of Public Hearing and Report on Establishing the Proposed Countywide Service District for Fire Protection Services in Forsyth County

Notice is hereby given by Forsyth County that, pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 153A-309.2, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing during its Board meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room on the Fifth Floor of the Forsyth County Government Center located at 201 N. Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, N.C., on a proposal to establish a Countywide Service District for Fire Protection Services in Forsyth County.

Map of Proposed Countywide District, shown in cross-hatched area:



The proposed district meets the standards set forth in NCGS 153A-302(a) as follows:

- (1) The 2018 resident population of the district is 99,656, and the population density is 394.36 persons per square mile;
- (2) The appraised value of property in the district subject to taxation is \$10,283,147,426 as of January 1, 2018;
- (3) The present tax rate percentages of the county and any municipalities in which the district or any portion thereof is located, as of 2018-2019, are as follows: Forsyth County, 0.7235; Bethania, 0.30; Clemmons, 0.115; Lewisville, 0.177, Tobaccoville, 0.05; and the tax rate percentages for the following fire and service districts are as follows: Beeson's Cross Roads, 0.0986; Beeson's Cross Roads Service, 0.0986; Belews Creek, 0.1136; City View, 0.1086; Clemmons, 0.0636; Forest Hills, 0.1086; Griffith, 0.0586; Gumtree, 0.1036; Horneytown, 0.1336; King, 0.0786; Lewisville, 0.0836; Mineral Springs, 0.1086; Mineral Springs Service, 0.1086; Mount Tabor, 0.0786; Old Richmond, 0.0986; Piney Grove, 0.1436; Salem Chapel, 0.1236; South Fork, 0.0636; Suburban (Rural Hall), 0.1086; Talley's Crossing, 0.1086; Triangle, 0.0956; Union Cross, 0.1236; Vienna, 0.0786; Walkertown (Northeast) 0.1036; West Bend, 0.0836;
- (4) The district is large and diverse enough that there is strong potential for growth of the tax base sufficient to sustain the additional taxes necessary for this district;

- (5) The district will not furnish water, sewer, or solid waste collection services;
- (6) The district will fund additional fire suppression services needed to respond to fires and emergencies throughout the district and to support existing fire departments.

Plan for Providing Fire Protection Services within the District:

The new fire protection service district will fund county fire suppression services located strategically across the county. These services will support county volunteer fire departments by responding to labor intensive emergency events, assisting with non-emergency events, and providing supplemental manpower. This program will be supervised and managed by county fire staff and will better protect County residents in the event of fires or other emergencies.