



Hello, Big Lake Community!

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B.L.F.D. Commissioners response to community questions asked at 12/11/17 meeting

1. Why are the Commissioners pursuing with the RFA when the voters of Big Lake gave a decisive “No” of 66% in last month’s election?

Response: The Big Lake board of commissioners are focused on all options

possible to solve our weekday shortage of fire fighters as cost effectively as possible. To not consider the possible RFA option as a potential solution would not be responsible.

2. Why were no other options presented to the voters, such as contracting with other Fire Departments?

Response: None of the neighboring fire districts have the staff available for contracting with B.L.F.D. Additionally, based on the compensation being provided by neighboring districts the cost would be higher than the plan that was presented using part-time shifters. We did explore other options and the RFA proposal was determined to be the most viable for the long term. It would not have made sense to include more than one proposal on the ballot which would have made it more confusing.

3. Has it been determined that shifters are necessary to serve BL? Are qualified individuals being turned away from volunteering due to their limited availability? Also, the training requirements seem out of sync with norm and state requirements – please explain.

Response:

1. It was determined that shifters are necessary to serve Big Lake.
2. Qualified individuals are not being turned away from volunteering due to their limited availability but we do have standards they need to comply with. We make our best effort to have all our volunteers comply with ALL regulations and training requirements. For firefighter requirements, see Washington State WAC Chapter 296-305. These standards are for all firefighters, career, part-time or volunteer.

Upcoming Dates

January 8th - Commissioner Board Meeting at BLFD Station 1 starting at 6pm

January 17 - Big Lake Fire Department Planning Meeting at BLFD Station 1 at 6pm

January 24 - RFA Meeting at BLFD Station 1 at 6pm

February 5 - Commissioner Board Meeting at BLFD Station 1 starting at 6pm

March 3 - Big Lake Fire Department Auxiliary Pancake Feed at BLFD Station 1 from 7-11am

**Kind regards,
Big Lake Fire Department**

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