

# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Special Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2025

Chair Scott Isenman called the Board of Commissioners Special Meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Present were Commissioners Bruce Alward, Tim Carey, John De Lanoy, and Fritz von Ibsch; Fire Chief Jared Moravec; Deputy Chief Jeremy Mendola; HR Manager Shannon Webber; and Finance Manager Ed Kaufman.

### AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

None

### PUBLIC COMMENT

David Dunn, Island resident, expressed concerns about the attrition rate at BIFD over the last several years. He suggested the Board does not have enough information to make a decision on a levy lid lift at this time and thinks further analysis is required.

Jay Rosenberg, Island resident, expressed concerns about the closure of Eagle Harbor Drive and the effects that will have on BIFD's emergency response to the south end of the Island.

### BUSINESS AGENDA

#### 1. COBI Road Projects Update

Chief Moravec briefed the Board on recent discussions he has had with the City Manager, Director of Public Works, Police Chief and Emergency Manager regarding the temporary closure of Eagle Harbor Drive at the head of Eagle Harbor, as well as other recent road projects. He stressed to all parties the need for the Fire Department to be included on road project discussions from the beginning so that the Department can appropriately plan for any adjustment to its response model if needed. City officials agreed with the Chief's sentiment. The Chief informed the Board that BIFD will be adding additional staffing to Station 22 during the Eagle Harbor Drive closure to mitigate any delays in emergency response.

#### 2. Resolution #03-2025: Levy Lid Lift

Chief Moravec presented Resolution #03-2025: Resolution Providing for the Submission of Multi Year Levy for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Isenman stressed his desire to increase the general fire levy to a reasonable amount that would allow the Department to be sufficiently funded so as not have to ask the public for another levy adjustment for several years. Commissioner von Ibsch wanted the Board to consider the current economic climate on Bainbridge including potential tax increases for other Island agencies this year. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Carey moved to approve Resolution #03-2025 with a \$0.15 per \$1,000 of tax assessed value increase to the general fire levy, restoring the rate to \$0.72. The levy lid lift would also establish a limit factor of the greater of the statutory limit or the Consumer Price Index for the following five years. Commissioner Alward seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, Commissioners Isenman and De Lanoy expressed objection to this motion because the

\$0.15 increase was too low in their opinion. The motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Isenman and De Lanoy voting against.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jared Moravec, Board Secretary  
Approved  
August 13th, 2025



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**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 03-2025  
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF MULTI YEAR LEVY  
(General Election)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO RESTORE ITS REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY TO \$0.72 PER \$1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION AND ESTABLISHING A LIMIT FACTOR OF THE GREATER OF STATUTORY LIMIT OR THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS.

**Background:** WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Commissioners of the District that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the District that the fire and emergency medical services be provided by the District.

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners has determined that the accelerated demands for, and increasing costs of, providing services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for improved fire protection operations, replacing apparatus and equipment, firefighter recruitment and training and maintaining emergency medical service levels in excess of those which can be provided by the District's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate of approximately \$0.57 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the District as limited by the 101% limitation.

WHEREAS, The District previously levied at a rate in excess of \$0.72 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation in 2016.

WHEREAS, The District experiences annual cost increases affecting its operations that reflect standard inflationary indices and that consistently exceed the statutory 101% limitation on tax levy increases.

WHEREAS, The District believes that it is reasonable to adopt a growth factor for years 2-6 of the levy lid lift period designed to allow the District to keep pace with inflation and has identified **the first-half to first-half Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metropolitan area** as an appropriate measure of inflation in Kitsap County.



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**WHEREAS**, The Board of Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the District that the maximum allowable levy authorized by this Resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

**Resolution:** NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Kitsap County, Washington as follows:

**Section 1.** In order to meet increased call volumes, maintain the level of fire protection, prevention, emergency medical services and the protection of life and property in the District, it is necessary for the District to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles and improve station and other capital facilities and to retain properly trained firefighters equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

**Section 2.** In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services the District shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010, and levy beginning in 2025 and collect beginning in 2026, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130 and RCW 52.16.140 a general tax on taxable property within the District at a rate of \$0.72 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

**Section 3.** In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing adequate life protection services and facilities as described in Section 1 and to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services beyond 2026, the District has determined that the limit factor for the five succeeding years shall be the greater of the statutory limit or 100% of the first-half to first-half Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metropolitan area as reported in the levy year. Such percentage shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2026-2030 to be collected in each following year.

**Section 4.** The amount levied in 2030 and collected in 2031 shall serve as the District's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

**Section 5.** There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection, at an election on November 4, 2025, in conjunction with the state general election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the District should be restored to \$0.72 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation, and be adjusted by the greater of the statutory limit factor or 100% of the first-half to first-half Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metropolitan area as reported in the levy year for the five following years subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests the auditor of Kitsap County, as ex-officio Supervisor of



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Elections, to call such election, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

Name of Jurisdiction: Bainbridge Island Fire Department

Proposition #: Proposition No. 1

Short Title: Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Ballot Title: The Board of Bainbridge Island Fire Department adopted Resolution No. 03-2025 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund District operations.

This proposition would authorize the District to restore its 2025 property tax levy to \$0.72 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation (collected in 2026) and authorize annual adjustments for the five succeeding years based on the greater of the statutory limit factor or 100% of the first-half to first-half CPI-W for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area as reported in each levy year. The maximum allowable levy in 2030 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

**Section 6.** Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(1), the measure requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

**Section 7.** The Board of Commissioners finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the District to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters' pamphlet. Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be paid for by the District. The Board of Commissioners further authorizes and directs the Fire Chief to provide such information to the County Elections department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

**Section 8.** The Board hereby assigns to the Fire Chief or designee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

**Section 9.** For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the Fire Chief as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.



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**Section 10.** The Chief is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.


**Section 11.** The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than August 5, 2025, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the November 4, 2025 election.

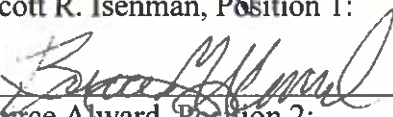
**Section 12.** If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

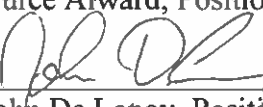
**Section 13.** Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

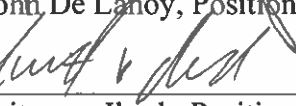
**Section 14.** This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

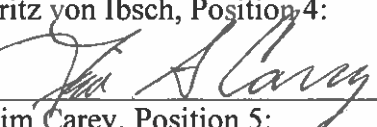
**Adoption:** ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Bainbridge Island Fire Department at an open public meeting of such Board on the 14th day of July 2025, the following Commissioners being present and voting:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Isenman, Position 1: In favor /  Opposed / Abstained / Absent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Alward, Position 2:  In favor / Opposed / Abstained / Absent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John De Lanoy, Position 3: In favor /  Opposed / Abstained / Absent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fritz von Ibsch, Position 4:  In favor / Opposed / Abstained / Absent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Carey, Position 5:  In favor / Opposed / Abstained / Absent

Attest: 

Jared Moravec, Board Secretary

