

ORDINANCE No. 496

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRIE, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH PRAIRE AT THE NOVEMBER ELECTION, 2007 FOR THEIR RATIFICATION OR REJECTION, PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE THE REGULAR PROPERTY TAX TO \$0.50 PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR COLLECTION IN 2008 AND AUTHORIZING ANNUAL INCREASES BY 5 PERCENT IN EACH OF THE SUCCEEDING 5 YEARS; SETTING FORTH THE BALLOT PROPOSITION; DIRECTING THE TOWN TREASURER/TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO; AND SETTING FORTH FACTS.

Whereas, the Town of South Prairie is a 4th class town located in Pierce County, Washington duly organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the state of Washington; and

Whereas, the citizens of South Prairie authorized a levy of \$0.50 per thousand dollars assessed value in November 2005 to be collected in 2006 for Emergency Medical Services (EMS); and

Whereas, the effective levy rate has decreased to \$0.41 per thousand dollars assessed value in 2007 because of increased property values; and

Whereas, the Interlocal Agreement with the Pierce County Fire District 20 of November 5, 2003, paragraph 6, requires the Town to endeavor to match the District's EMS levy rate; and

Whereas, Pierce County Fire District 20 has increased its levy and requests the Town to match; and

Whereas, the Town has an unused portion of its regular property tax authority; and

Whereas, the Town Council is required to submit to voters to ratify or reject an increase in the EMS property tax on real property within the Town; and

Whereas, the proceeds of an increase in the regular property tax on real property will provide funding for the continuation of necessary services provided by the Town to its citizens.

Now, therefore, the Town Council of the Town of South Prairie, Pierce County, Washington do ordain as follows:

Section 1: An election is hereby requested to be called, conducted and held within the Town on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, for the purposes of submitting to the qualified electors of the Town for their ratification or rejection, a proposition to raise the regular property tax on real property for Emergency Medical Services within the Town to an amount of \$0.50 per thousand dollars assessed value on property within the Town from and after January 1, 2008 and authorizing annual increases in the levy amount by 5 percent thereby setting the limit factor at 105 percent in each of the succeeding five years.

Section 2: That the proposition to be submitted to the electorate of the Town shall read substantially as follows:

PROPERTY TAX LEVY PROPOSITION

Levy for Emergency Medical Services

In order to provide funds for Emergency Medical Services, shall the Town of South Prairie levy an excess of \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value for collection in 2008 and authorize annual increases in the levy amount by 5 percent, thereby setting the limit factor at 105 percent for each of the succeeding five years and at the end of this period shall the levy be calculated based on the maximum allowable levy amount in the final year of the lid lift?

Instructions to Voters

To vote in favor of the foregoing proposition, mark a cross (x) in the box "Tax levy, Yes" square.

To vote against the foregoing proposition, mark a cross (x) in the box "Tax levy, No"

Tax levy, Yes

Tax levy, No

Section 3: In the event that the proposition specified in Section 2 above is approved there shall be levied and collected for Emergency Medical Services a regular annual tax rate on real property in the Town of \$0.50 per thousand dollars assessed valuation commencing January 1, 2008 and the limit factor for the succeeding five years shall be set at 105 percent. At the end of this period, the levy shall be calculated based on the maximum allowable levy amount in the final year of the lid lift.

Section 4: The Town Council hereby finds and declares an emergency exists, due to the Pierce County Fire District 20's increase in levy rate. Said emergency requires the Town to conduct an election at the next election date, and requires the submission to qualified electors of the Town for the ratification or rejection at said election, the proposition as set forth above. The Town Clerk/Treasurer or designee representative is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a copy of this ordinance to the Pierce County Auditor, as the Town's ex officio Supervisor of Elections at least 84 days prior to the election date.

Section 5: The Pierce County Auditor, as the Town's ex officio Supervisor of Elections is hereby requested to also find the existence of such emergency and to deem the same to exist and call said election on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, and submit to the qualified electors of the Town the proposition set forth herein.

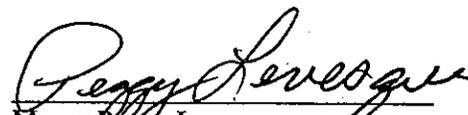
Section 6: The Pierce County Auditor shall cause a notice of election substantially in the form attached as Exhibit "A" referred to herein, to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town. Such publication shall take place not more than 10 days or less than three days prior to November 6, 2007.

Section 7: The Pierce County Auditor, as the Town's ex officio Supervisor of Elections shall conduct the election, canvas the vote and certify the results in the manner provided by law.

Section 8: This ordinance shall be in full force and take effect five (5) days from and after its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

Section 9: If any provision of this ordinance is determined to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason the remaining provisions shall remain in force and effect.

Section 10: The findings of fact as set forth above are hereby incorporated by reference.


Mayor Peggy Levesque
INTRODUCED 8-1-07
PASSED 8-1-07
APPROVED 8-1-07
PUBLISHED 8-15-07

Attested:

Marla Nevill
Marla Nevill, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to Form:

Kathleen Haggard
Kathleen Haggard, Town Attorney



Exhibit "A"

PROPERTY TAX LEVY PROPOSITION

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To vote against the foregoing proposition, mark a cross (x) in the box "Tax levy, No"

Tax levy, Yes

Tax levy, No