

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U

The Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District annual parcel fee has not increased in 30 years! The current charges of \$10 per undeveloped parcel and \$30 per developed parcel generate about \$10,000 annually which barely covers vehicle, liability, and workers' comp insurance.

Other local fire districts receive annual parcel fees in the \$85 to \$125 range. Shelter Cove is \$125 for example. This proposed additional parcel fee, bringing most parcels to *\$85 total*, will not even produce enough revenue to meet current annual budget needs. Fundraising and grant writing will still be necessary to cover expenses, but it seems like a fair fee to help sustain the Fire District, and it will go a long way to support the department's 10 volunteer firefighters and 5 pieces of fire apparatus.

The cost of engine repairs, maintenance, fuel, training and insurance has been steadily increasing over the last 30 years: the Fire District simply cannot continue functioning with 1989-level tax revenue.

A newer engine, new gear and a new firehouse have been made possible through grants, donations, and Measure 'Z' funds. The property for the new Ettersburg Fire Station is being purchased by the TRFPD from the school district at a cost of \$30,000 per year, through 2023. When the school property is paid off, it may be possible to replace aging equipment, develop necessary infrastructure, and pay other rising costs associated with running a fire department.

Remember, an all-volunteer fire department means no money is being spent on payroll. The unpaid Telegraph Ridge firefighters are training and drilling year round to provide you with prompt, skilled emergency services. *TRFPD is dedicated to serving you, please support us in our efforts!*

If you want continued fire protection and a timely, local response when you dial 911, please vote YES ON 'U'.

/s/ Peter Lawskey, Fire Chief

/s/ Laurel Radloff, District Board Member

/s/ Laura Cochran, District Board Member

/s/ Moses Danzer, District Board Member