

Rocky Point Fire District Bond Vote – Tuesday, Oct. 13



Q. Didn't voters already approve construction of the North Shore Beach Firehouse in August 2017?

A. Yes. In August 2017, voters in the fire district approved two bond propositions to fund the replacement of the North Shore Beach Firehouse, along with a new fire truck. The total of these propositions was \$8.5 million. The district is nearing completion on the construction; however, an additional \$1 million in funding is needed to finish the project. We are asking the community to vote on this proposition on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Q. Why is additional funding needed to complete construction?

A. Since 2017, construction costs have risen approximately 10%. In addition, several contractors we hired for the project went out of business due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The cost to hire new contractors to do the same work has risen since the time we originally went out to bid on the project.

Q. Can't the fire district just scale back the project to reduce costs?

A. Unfortunately, there is no room to scale back the project. The original proposal approved by voters in 2017 called for the construction of a basic firehouse without a lot of "add-ons." Only essential items were included, which leaves very little opportunity for us to cut costs.

Q. If approved, how much will this increase my taxes?

A. If voters approve the bond on Oct. 13, the additional cost would be approximately \$17-\$18 a year for the average household.

Q. Can't we just delay construction until the fire district can save enough money to complete the project?

A. No. All trucks and equipment from the North Shore Beach station are currently housed at no cost at the former Thurber Lumber Company property while the firehouse is under construction, thanks to the generosity of Landmark Properties. Since development of that site will soon begin, we must remove all of our equipment from that location in the near future. Quite simply, we need to complete the firehouse by that time, or we will have no location to store our trucks and equipment.

Q. If approved, when will construction be completed?

A. If voters approve the referendum on Oct. 13, we anticipate construction on the firehouse will be completed by December 2020 or early 2021.

Q. Are absentee ballots available for this vote?

A. No, absentee ballots are not available for this vote. Providing absentee ballots would have delayed the vote and also increased our costs. We are kindly asking all voters to wear a mask and adhere to proper social distancing at the polls.



VOTE • TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Polls Open 3-9 p.m. @ Shoreham Firehouse

Please wear a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines!