



North Tongass Fire & EMS Service Area

Fire Station 7 Project

10540 North Tongass Highway



Medic 8 on a recent call.

North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department

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NTVFD Apparatus

We are here
because we care!

Please consider becoming
a volunteer.
Call 907-228-6710

What is the Board proposing?

The Board of Directors of the service area is proposing purchasing the building and property that once housed Ketchikan Welding North. This building and lot is located at 10540 North Tongass Highway near the north end of D-1 Loop Road and North Tongass Highway next to Magnum.

The plan is to utilize the structure and lot for Fire Station 7 and a 100,000 – 150,000-gallon water storage tank for firefighting. The advantage of the location is that it is nearly in the middle of a large gathering of structures.



10540 NTH is indicated here in red.

These structures are of both commercial and residential make-up. The closer location of a larger amount of water and the equipment to carry it allows for more gallons per minute (GPM) to be used to fight a large structure fire.

Right now with our current water sites being at Ward Cove and Fire Station 8, we can supply water at about 300 GPM. On a normal structure fire, we need 500 GPM to effectively fight a fire and completely extinguish it.

The location of both the water storage tank and a tanker truck capable of bringing the water to the scene will greatly improve our ability to safely deliver the water to help us in our goal of protecting lives and property by extinguishing the fire.

The plan is to locate both a tanker and a pumper at this location.

NORTH TONGASS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department is to serve and protect our North Tongass community in an effort to minimize the loss of life and property resulting from fires, medical emergencies and other disasters in the safest and most cost efficient manner possible.

Board of Directors

Steve Phillips – Chair

Donald Westlund

Paul Hook

Gary Webb

Dave Albertson

Will this mean another fee?

The short answer is yes. While not actually assessing another fee, the Board will be forced to raise the current fee and/or the mil levy to accomplish this goal. **That is why your input is so important.** The Board wants and needs to hear from you.

The current rate structure has not been raised in the last 4 years. The Board recognizes the tough economic times that we are all in but this is a project of great need for public safety, our safety.



Will this affect our Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating?

What will affect the ISO rating more will be the additional water supply that can be delivered to the scene of a fire. The location of the apparatus to move the water is of great importance also as are the trained volunteers necessary to man the rigs. The ISO looks at all these components when making a decision on the firefighting capabilities of a local department.

Many north end residents reported savings of up to \$350 on the residential insurance due to the improvement of the ISO rating in

April from a class 9/10 to a class 7/10. NTVFD can improve on this.

The department is diligently working toward improving that class 7 rating and hope to be able to retest in the next 3-5 years.

“The less travel distance we have to go to either reach the fire or bring water to the scene means less risk to both the department personnel and the public. Time is not our greatest enemy, distance is.”

*David Hull, Chief
NTVFD*

Will there be a meeting on this?

YES! Please watch for meeting times and places. Your input is vital to this process. If you have an opinion, for or against, the Board of Directors wants and needs to hear it. This is a very difficult and complicated decision to make and with your help, the Board will make every effort to ensure a sensible decision is made.

How will we pay for this?

The owner of the property has offered to carry the note on the lot and building for a period of 10 years for \$800,000 plus interest of 2.9%. The monthly payment would be \$7,688 a month or \$92,256 a year.

In order to raise this amount of money the Service Area Board of Directors will have three options to choose from: 1) Raise the mil levy from the current 1.7 to 1.975 or 2) raise the current structure fee \$85 a year to \$185 or 3) a combination of both.

A raise in the mil levy of .275 from 1.7 to 1.975 would mean an additional \$68.75 on a \$250,000 assessed structure.

The service area's current debt load is being managed by the 1.7 mil levy and \$100 structure fee but cannot support this additional funding.

