

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

**KLICKITAT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3  
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10**

**CITY OF WHITE SALMON  
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07-562**

A JOINT RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City Council of City of White Salmon, providing for the submission to qualified electors of the Fire District and the City, at the November 7, 2023 election to be held in conjunction with the State General Election of a proposition that, pursuant to Chapter 52.26 of the Revised Code of Washington, approves a Plan to form a regional fire protection service authority within the boundaries of the Fire District and the City, effective September 30, 2024 and providing for other matters properly related thereto.

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, providing an effective fire protection, rescue and emergency medical services requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among local and regional governments and the private sector; and

**WHEREAS**, there are efficiencies that can be gained by regionalizing fire protection, rescue and emergency medical service delivery, while maintaining local control; and

**WHEREAS**, Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 (“Fire District”) and City of White Salmon (“The City”) have a long history of a cooperative approach to meeting the needs of their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of White Salmon City Council and Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District #3 entered into a joint “Fire Action Plan” in July of 2022 designating a Citizens Task Force to examine current levels of service, and thus, the Task Force produced an independent Final Report with recommendations for improvement to the safety and levels of service to the community by regionalizing emergency services; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 19, 2023 the Board of Commissioners of the Fire District and the City Council of the City formed a Planning Committee to explore the feasibility of

forming a regional fire authority and to draft a regional fire authority plan in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 52.26 RCW; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Committee met and prepared a Plan to create the “West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority” and to govern and finance its operation. The West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority Plan is being formally approved and adopted by each entity pursuant to this Joint Resolution “the Plan.” A copy of the Plan is attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by this reference. Copies are also available from the administrative offices of the Fire District and The City; and

**WHEREAS**, the authority to form a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority is established by Chapter 52.26 RCW and requires that the voters in the area affected by the Plan must approve the Plan and establish the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority.

Therefore, in accordance with the Plan and state law, it is appropriate to place before voters within the Fire District and the City (the proposed service boundaries of the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority) at an election to be held on November 7, 2023 in conjunction with the State General Election, a proposition calling for the approval of the Plan and the creation of the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority, to be initially funded by a property tax not to exceed \$0.76 per thousand of assessed valuation.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF KLICKITAT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON, DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

### **RESOLUTION**

**SECTION 1.** – *Adoption of the Plan for the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority.*  
The Board of Commissioners of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City Council of the City of White Salmon hereby formally adopt the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority Plan, a true and correct copy of which is attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by this reference.

**SECTION 2.** – *Findings of Board of Commissioners of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and City of White Salmon.* The Board of Commissioners of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City Council of the City of White

Salmon hereby find that it is in the best interests of the Fire District and The City to submit to the qualified electors of the Fire District and the City at the election to be held on November 7, 2023 in conjunction with the State General Election, a proposition to approve the Plan and to create the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority. The Plan authorizes the RFA to be initially funded by a property tax not to exceed \$0.76 per thousand.

If approved by a simple majority of the voters within the boundaries of the proposed Authority voting on the ballot proposition in accordance with RCW 52.26.060, this proposition would create a regional fire protection service authority as provided in chapter 52.26 RCW called the “West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority,” with boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City of White Salmon, effective September 30, 2024, initially funded as set forth in this Section 2.

**SECTION 3.** - *Proposition for Voter Submittal.* There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City of White Salmon for their ratification or rejection, at the November 7, 2023, election in conjunction with the State General Election the question of whether or not the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority should be created in accordance with the Plan. The Board of Commissioners of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City Council of the City of White Salmon hereby requests the Auditor of Klickitat County as *ex-officio* Supervisor of Elections, to call such election and to submit to the voters of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City of White Salmon the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title, pursuant to RCW 52.26.060, as follows:

**KLICKITAT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3  
CITY OF WHITE SALMON  
PROPOSITION 1**

Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City of White Salmon adopted a Joint Resolution approving the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority Plan (“Plan”) concerning the creation of a Regional Fire Authority.

This proposition would approve the Plan and create the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority, effective September 30, 2024 to provide fire protection and emergency medical services funded by a property tax not to exceed \$.76 per thousand of assessed value to be levied in 2024.

Should the Plan to create the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority be approved?

YES            [ ]  
NO             [ ]

**SECTION 4.** – *Authorize Continued Acts of Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee.* The Board of Commissioners of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City Council of the City of White Salmon hereby authorize the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee to continue operating on an as needed basis until the effective date of the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority. The Planning Committee shall function as the governing board for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of Chapter 52.26 RCW until such time as West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority governing board is established pursuant to the Plan on September 30, 2024.

**SECTION 5.** – *Voter Approval Requirement.* Pursuant to RCW 52.26.060, the measure requires a simple majority vote to be approved.

**SECTION 6.** – *Voters Pamphlet.* The Board of Commissioners of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3 and the City Council of the City of White Salmon find and declare that it is in the best interest of the District and the City of White Salmon to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters’ pamphlet. Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be shared by the Participating Jurisdictions. The Board of Commissioners and City Council further authorize and direct

the Fire Chiefs to provide such information to the County Elections department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

**SECTION 7.** - *Designation of Individuals to Receive Notices re: Ballot Title.* For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District and the City Council of the City of White Salmon hereby designates their respective Fire Chiefs as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

**SECTION 8.**- *Implementation.* The Fire Chiefs are authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this legislation, including modifying the text of the “West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority Plan” and 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 9.** *Copies Filed with the County Auditors.* The Fire Chiefs or designees, are hereby authorized and directed, no later than August 1, 2023, to provide to the County Auditors certified copies of this resolution and the proper Participating Jurisdictions 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 of the proposed West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority at the November 7, 2023 election.

**SECTION 10** – *Severability.* If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution or the Plan is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution or the Plan.

**SECTION 11.** - *Ratification.* Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

**SECTION 12.** - *Effective Date.* This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3, Klickitat County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023, the below commissioners being present and voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Montag, COMMISSIONER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Connor, COMMISSIONER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Virts, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rozalind Plumb, DISTRICT SECRETARY

ADOPTED by the Mayor and City Council of City of White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such city council on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marla Keethler, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney