Levy Committee Chair Richard Krolak called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm.

Present or Via GoTo: Committee Chair Rich Krolak

 Board Treasurer Janel Gifford

 Fire Chief Bryan Daniels

 Division Chief Tom Jackson

 Admin. Asst. Lynn Johnson

Board President Richard Krolak called the Serial Levy Committee meeting to order and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard Krolak noted it has been awhile since we met so it is time to revisit the levy; in prior conversation I believe there was an agreement for going out in May of 2024, and he is assuming that has not changed. He advised that he spent considerable amount of time speaking with Director Bob Batty yesterday, and his argument to Rich yesterday was to not do May of 2024 but in fact to wait and do May of 2025. The rationale being that it is tied to the bargaining agreement and doing something less than five years. They discussed what this would do to budget planning, and Bob acknowledged that we would be burning through the carryover and creating a situation that could potentially change the amount of the budget going forward. Richard continued advising his argument is if the new levy goes into effect July 1, 2025, we should wait as long as possible to have a better understanding of what the financial obligations are and what would be necessary. Richard stated he kind of understands where Bob is coming from, but his recommendation is not to wait and to stay with May 2024 and stay with five years with the understanding that we will put more importance on multi-year budget planning, and in particular personnel costs.

Janel advised that she did some calculations and where we stand right now we would end up being in the hole $226,000.00 by FY 25-26 for example, if we assume we are using carry over funds to fund the first five months of 26-27; for example if we wanted to get to where the $226,000.00 zeros out to nothing we would have to have the local option levy increase be roughly $1.25 and that would take us to a total of $2.08. If we instead go out for $2.15 that would give us $350,000.00, and that is based on using Assessors information for the calculations.

Chief Daniels believes that May of 2024 is also good, but we would essentially have to write two budgets. He also stated if we go less than five years we might lose personnel since it makes employees feel their position is more tenuous.

Richard Krolak said I do not know what the appetite is if we go out for more based-on comments from the Budget Committee or what is saleable given all the other demands that are coming down the road for property owners. He questioned; what number do we think is reasonable and what can we sell? I think there is a recognition that costs have gone up, the question is how much.

Janel believes that the public would like to know how much costs have gone up, and believes it is important to include this information in the messaging regarding measure. Rich agrees the more detail you provide the better and we have to make a case. Chief Daniels stated If we go out in May of 2024 this gives us two more opportunities in November and then in May 2025 if necessary. Janel believes we should also include in the message how much more a taxpayer would pay per year; for example, for a $500,000.00 home you would pay this much, etc. Janel said the measure kind of writes itself if we are transparent. Janel noted that at $2.15 we will be in the hole again before the five years are up because of collective bargaining. The discussion continued and included going over the two-dollar mark, valuation growth, the budget and how much more we are going to need to make it work, grant possibilities, transparency, revenue and budget anticipation, voter fatigue and voter perception, marketing, etc.

President Krolak told the group to be prepared for the public to ask about shedding resources; for example, asking why do you keep Otter Rock, what purpose does it serve, why do you keep the Gleneden Beach station, what purpose does it serve; and encouraged the group to be ready for those conversations. He then asked if all agree to staying with May of 2024 and going out for five years, and all present agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.