



**Town of Twisp/Okanogan Fire District #6
Special Council Meeting – Initiative #1 Information
Wednesday, July 12th, 2023 – Time: 6:00 PM**

**Location: Twisp Civic Building
118 S Glover St.**

If you would like to attend to the meeting online via computer, tablet, or smartphone, please visit our website and follow the link to join or navigate to the following

URL: <https://meet.goto.com/315392333>

If you would like to listen to the meeting over the phone, please use the following number: **[+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122)**

Access Code: [315-392-333](tel:+16467493122)

Anyone who wishes to make a verbal public comment may register in person before the meeting, or with the Clerk's Office via phone 509-997-4081 or email clerktreasurer@townoftwisp.com before 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting. Public Commenters must provide their name, address, and the topic of their comment. At the designated time, commenters will be called on by the Mayor. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes in length.

Public comments may also be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting (via email to clerktreasurer@townoftwisp.com or dropbox at Town Hall) and must contain the Commenter's name, address, and comment. Written comments will NOT be read aloud at the meeting, but will be included on the meeting minutes.



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Wednesday, July 12th, 2023 – Time: **6:00 PM****

Call to Order and Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance – Council Member (Mayor’s Request)

Agenda:

- **Town of Twisp Initiative #1 Overview**
- **Okanogan County Fire District #6 Initiative #1 Overview**

Public Participation:

- **Public Comment Period (3 minutes each)**
- **Open House Period**

Adjournment



Town of Twisp

118 S. Glover Street • Box 278 • Twisp, WA 98856 • 509-997-4081 • F-509-997-9204

Twisp/Fire District #6 Annexation

The Town of Twisp (Town) and the Okanogan County Fire District #6 (District) have jointly submitted a ballot measure for annexation of the Town into the District for the purposes of consolidated fire protection. Completion of the annexation is subject to approval of the voters from each jurisdiction.

A Special Election regarding the annexation will be held for both the Town and the District on August 1, 2023. Annexation, if approved, will take effect as of January 1, 2024.

For the past several years, Twisp has contracted with Fire District #6 to provide fire protection services within the Town. Subject to approval by this upcoming election, fire protection would become paid for by a tax levy on residential and commercial taxpayers within the Town. The proposed levy rate is equal to the rate currently imposed on taxpayers already within the District. The effects of the annexation will be as follows:

Fire Protection: Operationally there will be no change in fire protection for either the Town or the District, however the Town will no longer be directly responsible for fire protection services, nor will it exercise any control. The Town and District will continue to work jointly in emergency situations to best serve and protect the citizens.

Voter Participation: Citizens of Twisp will be eligible to vote on all issues pertaining to the District, will be eligible to serve as Fire Commissioners, and serve on community advisory committees considering District policies and activities.

Contracts: The Town and District will no longer negotiate annual contracts for fire protection services.

Fire Hall: The Town agrees to sell, and the District agrees to purchase the Twisp Fire Station pursuant to the Pre-Annexation agreement. The purchase price shall be determined by an appraisal of the property performed by a mutually agreed upon appraiser and executed through a Purchase & Sale Agreement upon successful approval of the annexation ballot measure.

Apparatus: The Town will transfer ownership of Town fire engine E632, and emergency fire equipment, to the District. In exchange the District will provide fire protection and fire suppression services for 15 years to all Town owned facilities and real property.

Taxpayer Impacts: Property owners in Twisp will become taxed by the District, in addition to the existing Town tax levy. The 2023 tax levy in Twisp is ~\$1.369107 per thousand dollars of property valuation. The 2023 District rate is \$0.61345 per thousand dollars of property valuation. Annexation approval will bring the effective combined levy rate for Twisp property owners to ~\$1.982557 per thousand dollars of property valuation. The Town is not proposing to alter its property tax levy upon annexation. Town levied taxes will continue to go towards needed General Fund public safety expenses.

The Town of Twisp and Okanogan County Fire District #6 will be providing information about the annexation on Wednesday, July 12th at the Twisp Civic Building at 6pm. You are also welcome to contact the Town Clerk with any questions at 509-997-4081 or email: clerktreasurer@townoftwisp.com.

ORDINANCE #798

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF TWISP, WASHINGTON, DECLARING AN INTENT TO ANNEX THE TOWN OF TWISP TO OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6 AND INITIATING SUCH ANNEXATION.

WHEREAS, the growth within the Town of Twisp (“Town”) and Okanogan County Fire Protection District No. 6 (“District”) has created a greater demand for fire protection, fire suppression and basic life support services; and

WHEREAS, the fire protection, fire suppression and basic life support services are frequent services that are necessary for the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the Town’s abilities and options for rendering adequate fire protection, fire suppression and basic life support services for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town currently contracts with the District for fire protection, fire suppression and basic life support services; and

WHEREAS, the Town and District have pursued a mutually beneficial annexation of the lands within the jurisdiction of Twisp into the District; and

WHEREAS, the Town and District have reached agreement for annexation pursuant to the terms and conditions of the “Interlocal Agreement for Annexation of the Town of Twisp to Okanogan County Fire Protection District No. 6” dated April 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to join the District to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in providing fire protection, fire suppression and basic life support services; and

WHEREAS, RCW 52.04.061 requires that the annexation process be initiated by the passage of an ordinance by the Town stating an intent to join the District and finding that the public interest will be served thereby; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Twisp has a population of less than 300,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to place before the voters of the Town and the District the issue of whether to annex the Town into the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Twisp, Washington, as follows:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF FINDINGS OF FACT. The foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby adopted as the Findings of Fact of the Town Council in support of this Ordinance as required by RCW 52.04.061.

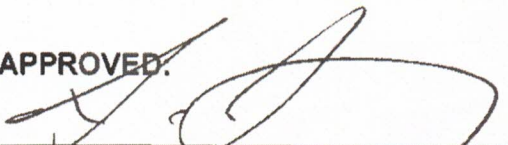
SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF INTENT. The Town Council hereby declares its intent to be annexed into the Okanogan County Fire Protection District No. 6.

SECTION 3. PUBLIC INTEREST. The Town Council does hereby find that the public interest will be served by the Town being annexed into the District.


SECTION 4. CONCURRENCE BY DISTRICT BOARD. If the Board of Fire Commissioners of the District shall concur in the proposed annexation of the Town, notification shall be transmitted to the Okanogan County Commissioners as specified in RCW 52.04.061 and the District shall request an election be held at the next available election date in order for the voters of the Town and District to decide whether or not the Town should be annexed into the District.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective from and after its passage by the Town Council, approval by the Mayor and publication of the Ordinance, or a summary thereof, as required by law.


Passed by the Town Council of the Town of Twisp, Washington, at its regular meeting on the 25th day of April, 2023.

APPROVED. 

Soo Ing-Moody, Mayor

ATTEST:


Randy Kilmer, Town Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


W. Scott DeTro, Town Attorney