

Item Title: Resolution to Modify the Bay Leaf, Durham Highway and Wakette Fire Insurance District Boundaries and Abolish the Stony Hill Fire Insurance District

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Adopts a resolution modifying the boundaries of the Bay Leaf, Durham Highway and Wakette Fire Insurance Districts, and renames the Bay Leaf Fire Insurance District; and**
- 2. Adopts a resolution abolishing the Stony Hill Fire Insurance District.**

Item Summary:

North Carolina General Statute 153A – 233 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to designate fire districts and approve the district boundaries thereof for insurance grading purposes. In unincorporated Wake County, the Board of Commissioners approve fire insurance district boundaries and contract with fire departments to provide fire protection and related emergency services in those districts. Funding is provided by revenues from a county-wide fire protection service tax district.

The Bay Leaf and Stony Hill Fire Departments initiated steps in 2016 towards a consolidation of the two fire departments into the Bay Leaf Fire Department, DBA Northern Wake Fire Department. The final step in this process is to merge the Stony Hill Fire Insurance District into the Bay Leaf Fire Insurance District, which will be renamed the Northern Wake Fire Insurance District.

As a result of this change, the Northern Wake Fire Department will be required to undergo a public protection classification rating inspection in 2018. The North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal conducts the rating inspections. The public protection classification (PPC - also referred to as the ISO rating) is one factor insurance companies use to determine property insurance premiums.

As part of the Fire Insurance District modification, Wake County Fire Services is recommending a realignment of the Fire Insurance District with the County's closest station response area for Northern Wake and its neighbors, Durham Highway Fire Department and Wake Forest Fire Department. These changes will align each fire department's response area with its Fire Insurance District, thereby reducing existing duplicate responses and expenses. Durham Highway Fire Department currently has a Class 3 rating, the Wake Forest Fire Department has a Class 4 rating and the Northern Wake Fire Insurance District will hold a Class 5 rating until they are re-rated. The North Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshal has reviewed and approved the proposed boundary changes.

Wake County will contract with the Bay Leaf Fire Department, DBA Northern Wake Fire Department to serve the Northern Wake Fire Insurance District. The County will not renew the existing fire protection agreement with the Stony Hill Fire Department.

The Board of Commissioner's Public Safety Committee received a briefing on this item at their May 30 meeting.

Attachments:

1. Resolution – Modify the Durham Highway, Northern Wake and Wakette Fire Insurance Districts and rename Bay Leaf Fire Insurance District
2. Resolution – Abolish the Stony Hill Fire Insurance District
3. Map – Current Durham Highway, Bay Leaf, Stony Hill and Wakette Fire Insurance District Boundaries
4. Maps – Proposed Durham Highway, Northern Wake and Wakette Fire Insurance Boundaries
5. Letter of Approval – OSFM