

From: Stephen Capson <SCapson@co.wasatch.ut.us>
Date: Wed, Oct 23, 2013 at 2:00 PM
Subject: 2014 Budget
To: Wasatch Taxpayers <wasatchtaxpayers@gmail.com>

Wasatch Taxpayers Association,

At the August 7, 2013 public truth-in-taxation hearing, I stated that the purpose of that hearing was to listen to the public's concerns about, or support for, the proposed tax increase and that any questions from the public that evening were considered rhetorical in nature and part of their public comments. As the Chairman of the Fire Board, I moved to hold the meeting open for two weeks and postpone the vote on the tax increase so that the Board could have time to consider the public comments made that evening. Speaking for myself, I considered all relevant comments made at the public hearing in making my decision to increase taxes and I stand by my decision. That decision was not arrived at from just one budget hearing or truth-in-taxation hearing, but from many, many hours talking to my constituents on the phone, answering emails, studying the issues and contemplating the best way to ensure that the public receives the level of service that they want, need, and demand.

In your letter you have requested a special meeting in "early November" and have requested that we share with you a copy of the "current tentative budget at least 3 days prior to that meeting." You state that the reason for this is "to allow the community to learn about all issues PRIOR to presenting the budget to the public." You distinguish "the community" from "the public." Who is "the community" if not the public? And, why should "the community," whoever that is, receive deference to the public by receiving the tentative budget at least 3 days prior to the public?

The public elected me to represent them fairly, evenly and with deference to none. We are currently in the process of preparing a draft 2014 budget and will make it available to ALL the public on the Fire District's website and the public meeting notice website as soon as it is ready, but no later than November 21st. If Wasatch Taxpayers Association has any ideas, suggestions, or specific questions that you would like us to consider in preparing the draft budget, please email them to me as soon as possible and I will respond. Additionally, If you give me sufficient time to arrange my schedule, I would be happy to attend a meeting of the Wasatch Taxpayers Association (not a closed board meeting) to discuss the Fire District.

The 2014 budget hearing will be held on Thursday, December 5th, and we will reopen and amend the 2013 budget at that time as well. We are currently working on scheduling additional public meetings for the Fire District. Where and when those meetings will be held has yet to be determined. Please stay tuned.

Thanks,

Stephen Capson
Chairman

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