

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OTHELLO, WASHINGTON, SUPPORTING
PROPOSITION 1 IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION TITLED "EMS LEVY", PROPOSING A
BALLOT MEASURE FOR A REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR EMERGENCY
MEDICAL CARE AND SERVICES

RECITALS:

1. Proposition 1 will be presented to the voters of Adams County at the special election on November __, 2011, with the following official Ballot Title:

EMS Levy: Adams County Public Hospital District 3 has adopted a resolution proposing a ballot measure for a regular property tax levy. This measure will authorize the District to levy a regular property tax estimated at \$396,428 for a period of six consecutive years at a rate of \$0.40 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation for emergency medical care and services.

Should this measure be

_____ **Approved**

_____ **Rejected**

2. The Othello Community Hospital (OCH) Ambulance service incurred losses (including direct expenses and indirect expenses) of \$300,517 (2008); \$386,270 (2009); and \$293,318 (2010).
3. The OCH ambulance service transported 678 patients in 2008, 687 in 2009, 682 in 2010, and projecting 681 in 2011 based on January through April volume annualized.
4. Bad debt and charity care at OCH increased 63.5% from \$1,732,541 (2008 audited figure) to \$2,539,467 (2009 audited figure) to \$2,832,046 (2010 unaudited figure).
5. In January 2008, 4,500 individuals residing in the OCH service area (14.5% of the population) were insured under the Washington State Basic Health Plan (BHP). As of March 1, 2011, Washington state budget cuts reduced the number of BHP insured individuals to only 400.
6. In 2010, BHP reimbursed OCH an estimated \$886,261. Washington state budget cuts are projected to reduce BHP reimbursement to OCH to as little as \$79,765 or less per year.
7. Effective May 1, 2010, EMS prices increased from \$631 to \$1,000 base rate and from \$21.50 to \$34.00 per loaded mile. If the ambulance service generates a surplus above and beyond what is required to cover direct and indirect expenses and purchase capital equipment, then the excess will be used to reduce ambulance service prices.
8. It is in the best interests of the community if OCH continues to own and operate the ambulance service, but OCH must have adequate financial resources to do so. In the short run, the service needs to replace one aging vehicle and remodel the ambulance station. Should the

levy fail, then OCH will provide a six month notice to the community and the Washington State Department of Health that it will cease providing ambulance service as of June 1, 2012.

9. OCH has proposed a ballot measure that would raise an estimated \$396,428 per year for the ambulance service. This measure would require a levy rate of forty cents (\$0.40) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation for a period of six (6) consecutive years. A home assessed at \$150,000 valuation would incur a \$60 tax per year in support of the ambulance service.
10. Per state law, OCH may seek voter authorization for a regular property tax levy in an amount not to exceed fifty cents (\$0.50) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation, but it is only seeking forty cents (\$0.40) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of assessed valuation.
11. Prior to adoption of this resolution, the City of Othello has given notice of the meeting at which it was considered containing the official title of Proposition 1, and has afforded equal opportunity at the meeting for any person to express an opposing view, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED:

1. The City of Council of the City of Othello, Washington, supports the adoption of Proposition 1 and urges its approval by the voters.

ADOPTED by the City Council of Othello, Washington this 26th day of September 2011.

By: Tim Wilson
Tim Wilson, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: Debbie L. Kudrna
Debbie L. Kudrna, City Clerk CMC