

Public Comment – Weddington Town Council Meeting
August 8, 2011

On July 25th the Town of Weddington sent a letter to the Union County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) asking the county commission to:

“do whatever is necessary to redraw the fire district lines to expand the district for the Providence Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD). This action is a precursor to a future request to convert PVFD from a fee district to a tax district.”

In other words, the town’s first priority is to move the lines and the second priority is to change to a fire tax district.

Each one of these changes will allow PVFD to collect more revenue directly from the citizens that it serves.

However, there are those in the county who do not want the lines moved, but they are not opposed to the change to a fire tax district.

On July 27th the Village of Wesley Chapel sent a letter to the BOCC stating that it opposes moving the lines.

On August 4th the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department sent a letter to the BOCC stating that it is opposed to moving the lines.

It will be difficult to move the lines and we will keep working on that part. But in the meantime I don’t see any reason not to move forward with the fire tax district.

The only concern I have heard in moving to a fire tax district without moving the lines is the fear of a large tax increase to those who live in the Providence district.

I am not sure this should be a concern to the town council. After all the fire fee increased this year and I have not heard anyone blame the town council.

The county will allow at most a 5-cent rate. I would like to see Providence charge no more than what the WCVFD charges next year. According to Jack Parks if Providence had a 2.2-cent tax rate it would collect an additional \$40,000 in revenue. That is moving in the right direction.

It is my understanding that the PVFD will ask the county commission for a fire tax district at next week's county commission meeting.

Here is what I am asking for tonight.

I would like for the town council to pass a motion tonight to request that the county commission move forward with the process to change Providence to a fire tax district.

- Walker Davidson