



P.O. Box 52, Corolla, NC 27927

May 7, 2018

Dear Corolla Property Owner,

Currituck County is proposing a fire service district plan that will raise your county taxes by more than 10% as of July 1 in addition to steep future increases. Please take action NOW to let the Commissioners know you oppose this plan.

Last year, we asked you to support the addition of a few paid firefighters to augment our volunteers. Our volunteer force is well-trained, experienced in the unique challenges presented by a beach environment, and has a superior service record – resulting in the best insurance industry rating in Currituck County. Our goal was to ensure the continuation of superior fire protection in Corolla. The County has taken our request for a little paid help and transformed it into a plan that we believe is excessive, unnecessary and unduly expensive.

CFR's initial request that you approved of last year. Two paid firefighters at each of the two firehouses, working 42 hours per week under the direction of CFR Fire Chief to provide round-the-clock support to volunteers. Tax Cost: about \$1 million/year = 4 cents per \$100 valuation. It was expected that a FEMA grant would lower rate to 1.6 cents/\$100 in first two years. As ISO classifies CFR as a “rural” fire department, this plan is consistent with industry fire safety standards. The urgency of even this plan has now been greatly reduced by the recent addition of six new volunteer firefighters under the age of 35.

What the County is now planning. A firefighting force modeled as an “urban” fire department, despite the fact we have no high-rises, few commercial structures, and ISO defines our area as “rural.” The County plan doubles the number of paid firefighters, adds high-salary officers, and requires potentially unsafe long shifts without overtime pay. Costs over **3 times as much** in the first year (5 cents/\$100). Oversized paid contingent will likely “squeeze out” our volunteers, thereby triggering additional paid hires and a skyrocketing tax cost. We might as well write the County a blank check.

Please take action now and let the Currituck County Board of Commissioners know that you oppose the County Plan. Complete the online survey at www.CorollaFireAndRescue.com by noon on May 20th so that we can represent your views at the public hearing on May 21st. Additional information available on the same CFR website.

Sincerely,

Al Marzetti
President, Corolla Fire & Rescue Foundation
Vice President, Corolla Fire & Rescue Squad