

Fire budget hits \$1 million

A \$1,029,104 preliminary budget and projections on the district's financial status will be discussed Tuesday night at the Aptos Fire District's board of directors meeting.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the main fire station, 6934 Soquel Drive, Aptos.

County Auditor-controller Art Merrill has been visiting all of the county fire districts, detailing the effects on their operations if Propositions 8 or 13 pass.

Fire Chief Richard Chinn, who retires Aug. 1, is proposing the preliminary budget, up from \$987,000 this year.

Chinn said no new major expenses are planned for the district, and said the bulk of the budget increase is because of a cost-of-living increase for employees and the cost of hiring three temporary firemen next fall while three regular firemen are sent to paramedic training courses.

The district's paramedic program has been delayed, Chinn said, because Dominican Hospital has not been able to obtain a malpractice insurance certificate, which would also cover the county and the fire district.

The district leveled a 98 cent tax rate this year on \$89 million in assessed valuation.

Chinn said he has no idea at the present as to what increases the assessor will be making in the district's assessed valuation, but there has been \$12 million in new construction the last year in the district, so Chinn figures a minimum assessed valuation of \$101 million.

With that figure, the tax rate

could drop to 95 cents per \$100 the implementation of the Behr assessed valuation next year, Bill, the rate might drop 85 to 87 with the passage of Prop. 8, and cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

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REFERENCE

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