

BRIEF HISTORY

The Sunsites-Pearce Fire District started as a small volunteer fire department. On March 13, 1972, the Sunsites-Pearce Fire Special Taxing District was formed following the statutes found in Title 48 of the Arizona revised Statutes. The fire district is a special taxing district formed with the purpose of providing funding through taxation for emergency fire protection for the residents within the boundaries of the fire district. All property owners within the boundaries of the fire district are taxed an equal tax rate which is determined by the Secondary Assessed Value of each individual parcel by the Arizona department of Revenue.

In the following years after formation of the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District, the fire district has increased the emergency services to also provide the residents of the fire district and surrounding area medical emergency services, having been granted a Certificate of Need (CON) from the Arizona Department of Health and Social Services. Staff has been trained to provide both fire protection and medical emergency response. Emergency Medical Ambulance billing funds this emergency service while not impacting the property taxes paid to the fire district. Other forms of Revenue for the fire district include Wildland fires, Subscriptions (contract with private property owner outside the fire district boundaries for fire protection) and donations.

Other services provided by the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District:

- Subscriptions for Fire Protection
- Controlled Burns
- Property Fire Assessment
- Fire Safety
- CPR Classes
- Vehicle Lock Out Assistance
- Limited Mobility Equipment Program

SERVING RESIDENTS OF THE SUNSITES-
PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT,

AND NEIGHBORING COCHISE COUNTY

Mailing Address: PO Box 507

105 TRACY ROAD PEARCE, AZ 85625

PHONE: (520) 826-3645 FAX: (520) 826-3586



SUNSITES- PEARCE FIRE DISTRICT ANNEXATION PROCESS

Information on how a property that borders the current boundaries of the fire district or an area with multiple property owners can be annexed into the Sunsites-Pearce Fire District.

Prepared April 2014

BUDGET

Each year the governing board of a special taxing district adopts a budget for the operations and maintenance of that district. Expenses of the fire district cannot exceed the revenues of the fire

district. Per A.R.S. § 48-807(E) the tax levy shall not exceed \$3.25 per \$100 of assessed valuation or 1.08% of the preceding tax year amount, whichever is less.

EXAMPLE CALCULATION OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY:

FY2014/2015 fire district tax rate is 2.55

Property Full Cash Values: \$150,000

Secondary Assessed Value \$15,000

Tax rate per \$100 in Secondary Assessed Value

.0255 times \$15,000 equals \$382.50 in yearly fire district tax.

ANNEXATION PROCEDURES

After a fire district has been formed, Arizona Revised Statutes allow for property owners to annex into the fire district by two means. If the property is **adjacent** to the current boundary of a fire district, the property owner may request in writing that the governing board amend the district boundaries to include this

property. The written request must include the complete names of property owners, the parcel number of the property and a brief legal description of the property. If approved by the governing board an order to annex the property into the district will then be recorded and submitted to the required government agencies.

A group of individuals interested in having an area of land that would still be **contiguous** with the boundaries of a fire district can submit an Impact Statement to the governing board of the fire district. Required information for an Impact Statement is outlined in A.R.S. § 48-262(A)(1), includes a written legal description of the area to be annexed, list of taxed properties within the proposed area, estimate valuation, estimate change in property tax liability, and a list of benefits and injuries of annexation of proposed area.

Once submitted to the governing board a public hearing will be held for the governing board to hear public comments to determine if the public health, comfort, convenience, necessity or welfare will be promoted.

If the governing board approves the impact statement those proposing the boundary changes then gather signatures from property owners within the proposed area. The petitions must be signed by owners of more than one-half of the taxed property units with the proposed change **and** by persons owning collectively more than one-half of the assessed property valuation within the proposed boundaries to be annexed.

Benefits of being annexed into a fire district:

- Emergency fire protection
- Ability to obtain homeowners insurance
- Savings of homeowners insurance
- Electing of the governing board of the fire district
- Fire safety services provided by the fire district
- Peace of mind

Injuries of being annexed into a fire district:

- Increase in property tax

More detailed information of the annexation process may be found in A.R.S. § 48-262.