

PUBLIC MEETING
June 28, 2012
7:00 pm
Annexation into Skagit County Fire District 8

Mayor Heinzman opens the meeting at 7:00

Present were Mayor Heinzman, Eddie Hills, Mike Swanson, Rita Burke, and Gail Ganga of Lyman, and Rusty Feay, John Ruthford, and Andy Hawkings of Skagit county Fire District 8.

Mr. Ruthford introduces himself and the Dist 8 officers. He told the audience that Lyman has contracted with Dist 8 for 26 years and applauds the council on this decision to annex; it is a big move for Lyman.

Mayor Heinzman opens the floor for questions from the audience.

Ken Goodpaster asks if there will be a difference in coverage if the annexation happens. Mayor Heinzman answered by saying, that after 26 years of the Town of Lyman paying the contract, if there is no annexation; Lyman may not be able to pay the bill, so therefore the actual contract with the district might go away. By annexing into the district it is a sure thing there will be no loss of service and it will prevent any future negotiation problems. It will also give Lyman residents equal representation in the Fire District. The tax that will be levied will go directly to the fire district.

Mayor Heinzman explains to the audience that Lyman's tax levy is \$1.19. That is what the town gets to run its general expenses for the year. The fire district levy is \$1.06. This leaves no money for the general fund. She also states that with the annexation all people will have a say in issues that are voted on.

Someone from the audience asks by annexing will there be a guarantee that the district will stay in Lyman. Rusty Feay answers that the majority of his volunteers are from Lyman, and Lyman station is strategic and helps with the response time. There is a county standard response time and with Lyman's station where it is the time is excellent. He explains that Dist 8 has 4 stations Prairie, Hickson, Punkin Center and Lyman; they also contract with SW for daytime coverage. There could even be an advantage on personal homeowners insurance. The district would continue to pay rent to Lyman on top of the tax levy.

Mayor Heinzman asked if there were any more questions or comments.

Mayor Heinzman adjourned the meeting at 7:40