

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-2016**

**RESOLUTION ORDERING A REFERENDUM ON THE CREATION OF THE JEFFERSON VALLEY RURAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT AND PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF THE ADMINISTERING BOARD OF THE SPECIAL DISTRICT**

**Whereas**, on May 16, 2016 the Jefferson County Commission (Commission) received a request from PULSE, Inc. (Partners United for Life Saving Education) to place on the November 8, 2016 ballot a referendum calling for a vote on the issue of creating the Jefferson Valley Regional EMS & Rescue Ambulance Special District (Special District); and,

**Whereas**, on June 14, 2016, and June 28, 2016, the Commission conducted public hearings on the issue of placing the question of creation of the Special District to the qualified electors of the Special District. At these hearings, public comment was received. In addition, the Commission invited and received written comment on the referendum question; and,

**Whereas**, after considering the public and written comment, the Commission determined sufficient public interest was shown for the Commission to order a referendum on the creation of the Special District and that the issue should be brought before the registered voters residing within the proposed Special District; and,

**Whereas**, on July 12, 2016 the Commission passed Resolution No. 16-2016 - Resolution Ordering a Referendum on the Creation of the Jefferson Valley Rural Ambulance District (Resolution No. 16-2016), which provided for the issue of creating the Special District to be brought before the qualified electors residing within the proposed Special District; and,

**Whereas**, Resolution No. 16-2016 provided for the Special District to be administered by an elected board of five (5) qualified citizens who reside within the boundaries of the Special District, but failed to provide for a date on which the election of the elected board would be

conducted. Due to this oversight, Resolution No. 16-2016 was rescinded; and,

**Whereas**, Mont. Code Ann. § 7-11-1003(1)(a)(ii) permits the governing body to order a referendum on the creation of a special district to serve the inhabitants of the special district in accordance with the provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 7-11-1011; and,

**Whereas**, Mont. Code Ann. § 7-11-1011(2)(d) requires the governing body to provide for in the resolution ordering a referendum on the special district to state whether the proposed special district is to be administered by the governing body or an appointed or elected board.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED**, a referendum on the creation of the Special District shall be conducted on January 10, 2017 by a Special Election which shall be held by mail ballot to ask: “Shall the proposition to organize the Jefferson Valley EMS & Rescue Ambulance Special District be adopted?”; and,

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Special Election shall also provide for the election of five (5) individuals who reside within the boundaries of the Special District to administer the district. The election of the board shall be conducted on January 10, 2017 by a Special Election which shall be held by mail ballot; and,

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, and in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 7-11-1011(2)(a)-(d):

a. The initial proposed annual assessment to fund the Special District will be \$29.00 (twenty-nine dollars) and will be imposed on each residential lot or parcel within the district which contains a dwelling unit and on developed commercial properties. There shall be no assessment on agricultural or vacant properties with no dwelling unit;

b. The activities to be funded through the annual assessment include the provision of

emergency and non-emergency ambulance response, emergency medical services, and other emergency services beneficial to the citizens of the district;

c. The areas to be included in the proposed Special District are those lands in Jefferson County which are within the exterior boundaries of Whitehall School District #2 and Cardwell School Districts #16 and #31. The Special District excludes those lands which are located in Madison County and Silver Bow County. The Special District also excludes the incorporated boundaries of the Town of Whitehall which are of record in the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder's Office. A legal description of the boundaries of Whitehall School District #2, which includes Cardwell School Districts #16 and #31, is attached as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference; and,

d. The proposed Special District will be administered by an elected board of five (5) qualified citizens who reside within the boundaries of the Special District.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2016.

**Jefferson County Commission**

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Bob Mullen, Chair

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Leonard Wortman, Commissioner

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Cory Kirsch, Commissioner

**Attest:**

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Bonnie Ramey  
Jefferson County Clerk & Recorder