

North DeKalb Fire District Governance Model

Structure: Authority (locally created)

Members: Cities of Brookhaven, Dunwoody, Chamblee and Doraville

Term and Termination for Convenience: 50-year intergovernmental agreement. Cities can terminate the agreement with 24 months notice. Termination will not alleviate the member city's responsibility for their portion of the debt incurred by the authority

Governing Board: Mayors (4), City Managers (3). The Chair rotates amongst the Mayors. The Chair will be the Mayor of the City in the year that their City Manager is off the Board. The City Managers on the Board will serve three consecutive one-year terms after an initial staggering. When not serving on the Board, the City Manager will be the Administrator for the Board of Directors. Responsibilities will include interfacing with the Fire Chief, preparing and presenting agenda items to the Board and providing staff support for the Board of Directors. The Deputy Administrator position will be held by the City Manager next in line to be Administrator for continuity purposes.

EXAMPLE:

2015: Chair: Mayor of Doraville

Board members: Mayors (3), City Managers (Brookhaven, Dunwoody & Chamblee)

2016: Chair: Mayor of Chamblee

Board members: Mayors (3), City Managers (Doraville, Brookhaven & Dunwoody)

2017: Chair: Mayor of Dunwoody

Board members: Mayors (3), City Managers (Chamblee, Doraville and Brookhaven)

2018: Chair: Mayor of Brookhaven

Mayors (3), City Managers (Dunwoody, Chamblee and Doraville)

Major powers of the Governing Board: Sets an annual budget, sets policy, approves major capital purchases, approves contracts and has personnel responsibilities for the Fire Chief.

Initial Investment: 30 year bond for capital assets (Fire Stations, Apparatus, Major Equipment, etc....) Issuance: **\$26 million**. Bonds are taken out by the Authority and backed through an Intergovernmental Authority with the various cities that pledges repayment of the bonds.

Assessments: The Authority will set a yearly budget and each city will be assessed their share of the total cost to run the district by population. The Governing Board of the NDFSD, by a supermajority of 5 votes can issue an emergency assessment for each City based on population to cover expenses in excess of annual obligations.

Property Tax: Cities have the authority to choose any method of raising revenue to meet their obligations. If Dunwoody chooses to initiate a property tax to replace the tax currently in place, a tax rate of 3.29 mill, with a 1-mill reduction for residential homesteads is projected to cover the cities obligations.

Additional Recommendations:

1. Legislation drafted to divert sales tax funds equal to the HOST credit to the NDFD to supplement budget

Revenue generated would be \$5,921,372. Funds would come to each City based on the amount of HOST credit lost by leaving the DeKalb County Fire District. The revenue could be used to:

(1) Offset yearly obligations (2) Pay off debt or; (3) Supplement expense budget. The revenue could also be used for any combination of the three options above.

2. Eliminate the bond option and rent existing fire stations while building up a cash reserve to buy or construct new stations. Use GMA lease purchase program to buy fire apparatus and equipment.
3. Look at options for alternate financial or service delivery models.