

**CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 15, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Central Ohio Joint Fire District Board was held on January 15, 2025, at the firehouse located at 5138 Columbus Road Centerburg, OH 43011. The following attended:

**Board Members**

Peter Dickerson  
 Tom Stewart  
 Eric Cochran  
 Daniel Hardwick, Centerburg Village Alternate

**Staff**

Chief McCann  
 Courtney DeCosky, Fiscal Officer  
 Chris Farmer, Fire Prevention Officer

**Guests**

Crystal McElhaney  
 Jill Hunter

Mr. Stewart called the regular Board meeting of the Central Ohio Joint Fire District to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. McElhaney handed out a sheet she had prepared to the Board, Clerk and Chief for review, pointing out inconsistency in previous language in an effort to shed light on some of the prior confusion. She emphasized she was not working against the board, she just wanted to understand the financials the need for the increase. Ms. McElhaney respectCojfd25!  
 fully thanked the Board for their time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 12, 2024 and the special meeting minutes from January 2, 2025, and Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Mr. Cochran moved to approve the warrants presented, and Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

Ms. DeCosky presented the monthly bank reconciliation; fund status ledger, appropriation ledger; receipt ledger and payment register for the Board's review and approval.

**REPORTS**

*Chief McCann Report* – (Attached)

Rinehart Insurance review. Chief McCann will find out specifics for the new fire truck. The Board did not see a need to meet with Rinehart in person this year.

Fire Prevention Officer Farmer shared that recent house fires in the district have been due to older space heaters being plugged into extension cords, sometimes multiple, and chimneys not being cleaned properly. He warned that it will be very cold next week and that residents should be cautious.

Chief McCann reported on possible financing options for the new fire truck, as noted in his report. They will have 30-days to make a decision on financing after the truck arrives in late February/early March. The Board will consider options as more information comes in.

Mr. Dickerson moved to sell E422 2001 Pierce on GovDeals, having no further use or value to the Central Ohio Joint Fire District, and Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

Mr. Dickerson motioned to accept the resignation of Ms. DeCosky effective January 31, 2025, with an offer to assist through a transitional phase with a new Clerk, and Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

On Chief McCann's recommendation, Mr. Stewart moved to offer a conditional job to Jill Hunter as Clerk/Fiscal Officer with the annual salary of \$24,657. Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

*Inspector Report-* (Attached)

*Fire Report* (Attached)

*EMS Report* (Attached)

*Training Report-* (Attached)

*EMS Billing Received* – EMS Billing received for the month of December was \$33,926.96

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Stewart expressed the importance of getting the accurate messaging out for the proposed levy. Further discussion on appraised v. assessed value. As far as the ballot language, it is mostly determined by the State, with the description of services being led by the Prosecutor's office.

Mr. Dickerson questioned the language on page two of the Resolution to Proceed with the 5.925 mills levy, where it references the rate amounts to \$207 for each one hundred thousand dollars of tax valuation. Ms. DeCosky informed the Board that the resolution was a template that is distributed by the Knox County Auditor's Office used for all county levies and would confirm its accuracy with the Prosecutor's office.

Mr. Cochran shared that his residents are upset and wanted answers as to why an additional 400k is needed to maintain the department. He believes they are actively campaigning against its passing.

Mr. Dickerson moved the adoption of the following resolution:

### **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, THE BOARD, APPROVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION:

RESOLUTION NO: 1.15.2025.3

DATE APPROVED: JANUARY 15, 2025, AND;

WHEREAS, THE KNOX COUNTY ("AUDITOR") HAS CERTIFIED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE BOARD:

1. THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE DISTRICT IS AS FOLLOWS:

\$247,764,120

2. THE NUMBER OF MILLS REQUIRED TO GENERATE A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF REVENUE IS, OR:

SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF REVENUE: \$\_\_\_\_\_

REQUIRED NUMBER OF MILLS: 5.925

3. THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY SPECIFIED NUMBER OF MILLS IS:

SPECIFIED NUMBER OF MILLS: 5.925

DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE GENERATED: \$1,468,000.

THIS RATE AMOUNTS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS OF TAX VALUATION:

\$ 207

**RESOLUTION**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD, AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONCURRING, AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE BOARD SHALL PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTION OF THE TAX ELECTORS.

2. THE RATE AMOUNTS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH ONE HUNDRED OF TAX VALUATION AS ESTIMATED BY THE AUDITOR, IS AS FOLLOWS:

a. 5.925 MILL(S);

b. THIS RATE AMOUNTS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS OF TAX VALUATION: \$ 207

c. IF THE LEVY IS A RENEWAL LEVY OR REPLACEMENT LEVY, THIS RATE:

  x   IS THE SAME RATE AS THE EXISTING TAX LEVY.

       IS NOT THE SAME RATE AS THE EXISTING TAX LEVY AND IS EITHER:

       A REDUCTION, THE EXTENT OF THE REDUCTION BEING:        MILLS(S)

       AN INCREASE, THE EXTENT OF THE INCREASE BEING:        MILL(S)

3. PURSUANT TO R.C. 5705.09(I):

a. THE PURPOSE OF THE TAX IS AS FOLLOWS:

b. *(I) For providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs; pursuant to Revised Code 5705.19(I);*

c. THE TYPE OF LEVY IS AS FOLLOWS:

       ADDITIONAL LEVY

       RENEWAL LEVY:        INCREASE        DECREASE

  X   REPLACEMENT LEVY:        INCREASE        DECREASE



4. THE FISCAL OFFICER IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO CERTIFY THE LEVY TO THE AUDITOR AND THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO (“BOE”). CERTIFICATIONS SHALL INCLUDE COPIES OF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- a. RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY (RESOLUTION NO. 01.02.2025 ADOPTED ON JANUARY 2, 2025); AND,
- b. CERTIFICATION OF THE AUDITOR; AND,
- c. RESOLUTION TO PROCEED (THIS RESOLUTION).

CERTIFICATION SHALL OCCUR BY NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM ON FEBRUARY 5, 2025 (90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION)

THE FISCAL OFFICER SHALL ALSO NOTIFY THE BOE TO CAUSE NOTICE OF THE ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF LEVYING THE TAX TO BE GIVEN AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

5. THE BOE IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO SUBMIT SUBSTANTIALLY THE FOLLOWING QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS AT THE ELECTION:

OFFICIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT

2025 ELECTION

MAY 6, 2025

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (REPLACEMENT)

CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

KNOX COUNTY, OHIO

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A MAJORITY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE IS NECESSARY FOR PASSAGE

A REPLACEMENT TAX FOR THE BENEFIT OF CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF

*(1) For providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs; pursuant to Revised Code 5705.19(1); THAT THE COUNTY AUDITOR ESTIMATES WILL COLLECT \$1,468,000 ANNUALLY, AT A RATE NOT EXCEEDING 5.925 MILLS FOR EACH \$1 OF TAXABLE VALUE, WHICH AMOUNTS TO \$ 207 FOR EACH \$100,000 OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR’S APPRAISED VALUE, FOR FOUR (4) YEARS COMMENCING IN 2025, FIRST DUE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2026.*

FOR THE LEVY

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AGAINST THE LEVY

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6. ALL FORMAL ACTIONS OF THIS BOARD CONCERNING AND RELATING TO THE PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION WERE ADOPTED IN AN OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD AND ALL DELIBERATIONS OF THIS BOARD AND OF ANY OF ITS COMMITTEES THAT RESULTED IN SUCH FORMAL ACTION WERE IN MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING R.C. 121.22.

MR. STEWART SECONDED THE MOTION.

VOTED ON AND SIGNED THIS JANUARY 15, 2025, IN CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO

MR. STEWART, TRUSTEE                      YES

MR. DICKERSON, TRUSTEE                      YES

MR. COCHRAN, TRUSTEE                      NO

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

n/a

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Central Ohio Joint Fire District, at 8:11 p.m., Mr. Cochran made a motion to adjourn until the regular meeting on February 19 at 7:00 p.m., unless called upon for urgent business. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

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Clerk

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