

CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the Central Ohio Joint Fire District Board was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at the firehouse located at 5138 Columbus Road Centerburg, OH 43011. The following attended:

Board Members

Peter Dickerson
Tom Stewart
Eric Cochran

Staff

Chief McCann
Courtney DeCosky, Fiscal Officer

Mr. Stewart called the regular Board meeting of the Central Ohio Joint Fire District to order at 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 15, 2024, and Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Mr. Dickerson 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)

Chief McCann updated the board on the Table Rock Estates, the 16-lot development planned on Wilson Road in Hilliar Township. The developers have not submitted drawings to COJFD, nor do they have a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to date. Chief McCann expressed his concern that the County is more interested in adding the housing than ensuring a safe community. He stressed the importance of the development being built with COJFD apparatus in mind, in order to ensure emergency access to future development residents.

The 2024 Budget Hearing will be held on July 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with the regular meeting immediately following.

Chief McCann shared information on the partnership between the Red Cross and COJFD, *Smoke Alarms Save Lives!* Smoke alarms are offered door to door. A door knocker is left with the contact number for the Red Cross if the resident is not home. The Red Cross records distribution details. The goal is to distribute the smoke alarms throughout the Village and then the Townships.

Mr. Stewart moved to discard one workout bench (INV Tage #0532) due to it having no further use or value. Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

On Chief McCann's recommendation, Mr. Dickerson moved to hire Hayden Normann as part-time firefighter/EMT-A at \$17 per hour and serve a one-year probationary period, effective June 12. Should Hayden Normann be promoted, he would serve one additional year of probation. Mr. Cochran 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 part-time paramedic position to Daniel M. Ellinger at \$19 per hour. Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

5.925 LEVY DISCUSSION (EXPIRING 2024)

Chief McCann referred to the levy section of his report and discussed possible alternative sources of funding. He shared that COJFD has had continuous improvement in the past 5 years, both in community safety and capital improvements. His expressed his concern that if the levy was not replaced, the department would quickly lose that growth.

Mr. Cochran shared, for the Board's consideration, that he had reached out to voters and felt that of those he spoke to, most were not in favor of a replacement but may vote yes for a renewal. He expressed that whatever decision the Board come to, good communication with the public on the necessity of the levy would be critical.

Mr. Stewart shared that due to the cost of everything being higher, the levy must be replaced in order to sustain the fire district. As a board member, he did not want to put any resident in more financial strain and said there would have to be a limit at some point. However, he felt that a replacement of the 5.925 mill levy was necessary.

MR. TOM STEWART MOVED THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, THE AMOUNT OF TAXES THAT WILL BE RAISED WITHIN THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION WILL BE INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NECESSITY REQUIREMENTS OF CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO ("TOWNSHIP"); AND,; WHEREAS, IT IS NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL

LIMITATION; AND

WHEREAS, THE LEVY WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF *(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 file-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);*

SAID PURPOSES BEING AUTHORIZED BY R.C. 5705.19 (I); AND,

WHEREAS, A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING A **REPLACEMENT**

TAX, PURSUANT TO R.C. 5705.19(I), OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION MUST BE APPROVED AND CERTIFIED TO THE KNOX COUNTY AUDITOR (“AUDITOR”) IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE BOARD TO CONSIDER THE LEVY OF SUCH A TAX AND MUST REQUEST THAT THE AUDITOR CERTIFY TO THE BOARD THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE TOWNSHIP, AND THE NUMBER OF MILL(S) REQUIRED TO GENERATE A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF REVENUE, OR THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY SPECIFIED NUMBER OF MILL(S).

RESOLUTION

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

1. THE AMOUNT OF TAXES THAT WILL BE RAISED WITHIN THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION WILL BE INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP.
2. IT IS NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION.
3. PURSUANT TO R.C. 5705.03 (B)(1):

THE PURPOSE OF THE TAX IS AS FOLLOWS:

(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);

- a. THE TYPE OF LEVY IS AS FOLLOWS:

_____ ADDITIONAL LEVY

_____ RENEWAL LEVY: _____ INCREASE _____ DECREASE

_____ X _____ REPLACEMENT LEVY: _____ INCREASE _____ DECREASE

- b. THE SECTIONS OF THE REVISED CODE AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTION OF THE TAX ARE R.C. 5705.03, 5705.191, AND 5705.25 AND THE FOLLOWING: 5705.19(I);

- c. THE TERM OF THE TAX IS AS FOLLOWS (IN YEARS OR CONTINUING);

FOUR (4) YEARS: 2025,2026,2027,2028;

- d. THE TERRITORY WHERE THE TAX IS TO BE LEVIED IS AS FOLLOWS:

_____ X _____ UPON THE ENTIRE TERRITORY OF THE DISTRICT

- e. THE DATE OF THE ELECTION AT WHICH THE QUESTION OF THE TAX SHALL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT IS AS FOLLOWS: NOVEMBER 5, 2024;

- f. THE TERRITORY WHERE THE BALLOT MEASURE IS TO BE SUBMITTED IS AS FOLLOWS:

_____X_____

UPON THE ENTIRE TERRITORY OF THE DISTRICT

g. THE TAX WILL BE FIRST LEVIED AND COLLECTED AS FOLLOWS:

THE TAX YEAR IN WHICH THE TAX WILL FIRST BE LEVIED IS 2025;

THE CALENDAR YEAR IN WHICH THE TAX WILL FIRST BE COLLECTED IS 2026;

h. THE DISTRICT HAS TERRITORY IN KNOX COUNTY AND EACH OF THE FOLLOWING

LISTED COUNTIES: MORROW.

4. PURSUANT TO R.C. 5705.03 (B) (1), THE FISCAL OFFICER IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO CERTIFY A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE AUDITOR. THE BOARD HEREBY REQUESTS THAT THE AUDITOR CERTIFY TO THIS BOARD OF THE FOLLOWING:

a. THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE TOWNSHIP;

b. THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THE LEVY OF THE FOLLOWING MILL(S):

5.925 MILL(S)

5. 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.

6. THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION.

MR. PETER DICKERSON SECONDED THE RESOLUTION.
VOTED ON AND SIGNED THIS JUNE 19, 2024 IN CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT,
KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO

TOM STEWART, TRUSTEE	YES
ERIC COCHRAN, TRUSTEE	NO
PETER DICKERSON, TRUSTEE	YES

Mr. Dickerson shared that he had not heard negative feedback about a possible replacement and also felt it needed to move forward.

Fire Report (Attached)

EMS Report (Attached)

EMS Billing Received – EMS Billing received for the month of March was \$240.00

Training Report- (Attached)

Inspector Report- (Attached)

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Central Ohio Joint Fire District, at 7:53 p.m., Mr. Cochran made a motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting at 7:00p.m., on July 17, 2024, unless called upon for urgent business. Mr. Stewart seconded. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

Clerk
