

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

A regular meeting of the Central Ohio Joint Fire District Board was held on September 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

Guests

Jeff Hackett
Nicole Hand
Sean Hand
Jody Vance
Les Vance

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cochran moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on August 21, 2024, and Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the warrants presented, and Mr. Dickerson 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.

TRGC HOLDINGS, LLC DISCUSSION

There had been concern of TRGC Holdings' newly developed road in the district not meeting the Ohio Fire Code requirements for a fire access road. Correspondence had been received earlier that day from the County Prosecutor saying the road was not a fire access road.

Discussion ensued on the Ohio Fire Code and whether *Appendix D* would have been included in the District’s adoption of the Ohio Fire Code. Chief McCann had sent the question to the state attorneys for their feedback. Mr. Cochran shared that he had been informed by legal counsel that *Appendix D* would not have fallen under the adoption of the Ohio Fire Code, unless it had specifically been adopted, and that language in the code supported that. After more discussion, the question was raised about waiting to hear confirmation from the State before a decision was made about the road having to meet the requirements of a fire access road as specified in *Appendix D*. Concern was raised about the possible ramifications of delaying the project any further, as the road had been approved by all other county entities, appeared to fall within the guidelines of the Ohio Fire Code and to meet all requirements for Knox County. Mr. Hackett shared that he was there in hopes of resolving the matter and felt the board had all the information they needed to make a decision that evening, as there had been ongoing delays and paving was scheduled for the following week. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Cochran moved that the recommendation of the legal counsel be followed and any requirements of TRGC Holding, LLC meeting a fire access road be dropped. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran and Mr. Dickerson. In the negative: Mr. Stewart.

REPORTS

Chief McCann Report – (Attached)

Board will consider a contract with Fire RecoveryUSA, which identifies billable runs, similar to EMS soft billing. Chief McCann will do further research and report back to the board at the October meeting.

Discussion on Morrow County Sheriff's Office taking over 911 dispatching on Jan. 1, 2025. COJFD will consider reaching out to Morrow County Commissioners to propose 1.5 mills to provide EMS services. A decision would need to be made quickly as a Request for Proposal was put out with a deadline of Oct. 3. The board was given the contact information for Attorney Riepenhoff to ask any questions regarding this decision.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Liberty Township resident Jody Vance inquired about the proposed 5.925 Fire Levy on the fall ballot, and she was given printed information.

Discussion ensued on what led up to the decision for Liberty Township to contract with the Mount Vernon Fire Department (MVFD). The contract switched to MVFD in 2017 after Liberty Township voted to pass an additional levy for fire/ems services in November of 2016, not specific to MVFD. Mrs. Vance shared her concerns with MVFD serving Liberty, which included increased wait times for her portion of the township. Mr. Les Vance also expressed his concerns. When asked for direction, the Board and Chief McCann suggested that they, and any other concerned citizens, bring their concerns to the Liberty Township Board, as they would be the ones to enact change. Mrs. Vance requested the copy of the check that COJFD wrote to Liberty Township in early 2017 after the termination of the COJFD contract, which FO DeCosky would locate and send. Mr. and Mrs. Vance thanked the board for their time.

Chief McCann continued with his report.

On Chief McCann's suggestion, Mr. Stewart motioned to hire Part-Time EMT/FF John Baldinelli at \$17/hour, and Mr. Dickerson seconded. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

Discussion on Chief McCann's letter and mailer regarding the levy. The Fire Levy Committee had voted to explain the annual cost as \$207 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Additionally, Chief McCann added the word "replacement" on the mailer.

Fire Report (Attached)

EMS Report (Attached)

EMS Billing Received – EMS Billing received for the month of July was \$26,906.56

Training Report- (Attached)

Inspector Report- (Attached)

Further discussion of the Ohio Fire Code and appendices. The board will plan to adopt the appendices at the next meeting. With safety as his main concern, Chief McCann will confirm the correct wording with the prosecutor, in order to ensure COJFD is protected if enforcing something.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Stewart moved to enter into executive session with the Chief and Fiscal Officer DeCosky at 9:01 p.m. to discuss personnel discipline, and Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

Mr. Stewart moved to exit out of executive session at 9:14 p.m., and Mr. Dickerson 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 terminate probationary FF Matthew Robert's employment with COJFD, and Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cochran moved to have the Fiscal Officer transfer \$16,945.29 out of Building (100-760-720-0000) to Repairs and Maintenance (1000-220-323-0000), and Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

Mr. Dickerson moved to receive the State of Ohio Equipment Grant Fund in the amount of \$5,687.00 and spend it in accordance with grant specifications. Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

Mr. Stewart moved to receive \$500 from the Ariel Foundation Grant program to be applied toward Adam Schlosser's Fire Officer 1 class at the Knox Technical Center, and Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion. In the affirmative: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Stewart. In the negative: None.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Revised Code, Secs. 5705.34-5705.35

The Board of Trustees of the Central Ohio Joint Fire District, Knox County, Ohio, met in regular session on the 19th day of September, 2024, at the office of Central Ohio Joint Fire District with the following members present: Mr. Tom Stewart, Mr. Eric Cochran, and Mr. Peter Dickerson.

Mr. Dickerson moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the Central Ohio Joint Fire District, Knox County, Ohio, in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1st, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Knox County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the Central Oh Jt Fire District, Knox County, Ohio that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted, and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and it's hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation are as follows:

SCHEDULE A

SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION AND COUNTY AUDITOR'S ESTIMATED TAX RATES

CENTRAL OHIO JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

Fund	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount to Be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor's Est. Of Tax Rate to be Levied Inside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor's Est. of Tax rate to be Levied Outside 10 mill Limit
	Column I	Column II	III	IV
1. General Fund		934,000.00		5.50
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15. Gen Bond Ret Fund		72,000.00		
4901 Capital Projects Fund		10,100.00		0.575
Totals	0.00	2,020,800.00	0.00	12.000

SCHEDULE B

LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION , EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES

FUND	Maximum Rate Authorized to be Levied	Co. Auditor's Est. of Yield of Levy (Carry to Sch. A, Column II)	
FIRE LEVY: Levy authorized by voters on May 02, 2023 Not to exceed 3 years 2023-2025	5.50	934,000.00	Replacement
FIRE LEVY: (Capital Projects) Levy authorized by voters on Nov 3, 2015 Not to exceed (Con't years)	0.575	82,100.00	Additional
FIRE LEVY: Levy authorized by voters on November 3,2020 Not to exceed 4 years 2021-2024	5.925	1,004,700.00	Replacement with increase

and be it further RESOLVED, That the Fiscal Officer this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of the Resolution to the County Auditor of Said County

Mr. Stewart seconded the Resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Cochran, yes Mr. Dickerson, yes Mr. Stewart, yes

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Central Ohio Joint Fire District, at 9:23 p.m., Mr. Cochran made a motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., on October 16, 2024, 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.

Clerk

