

NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

May 12, 2021

Minutes

The Northwestern Joint Fire District Board met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.. The Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Logan Rife, representative of York Township, Ms. Beth Marshall, representative of Taylor Township, Mr. Jerry McClary, representative of Liberty Township and Ms. Allison Hamilton, Fiscal Officer were in attendance. Chief Tim Merrick, Mr. Mike Moffett, and Mr. Dave Thomas were noted in attendance .

The Board reviewed the April 14, 2021 minutes.

- i. Ms. Marshall made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. McClary seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

Ms. Hamilton provided the Board with the 2021 April Bank Reconciliation, purchase orders, payments, payroll and receipts. Ms. Hamilton advised the District was denied credit to Lowes citing the District was still too new. As Chief Merrick is needing to purchase the renovation materials; Ms. Hamilton asked the Board if the secondary account could be used for the Chief to make the necessary purchases. Under the circumstances they agreed to this exception for purchases with the secondary account. The station renovation was previously approved and there was no need for further action.

- ii. Mr. Rife made a motion to accept and approve the Fiscal Officer's Financial Report. Mr. McClary seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

Ms. Hamilton presented the Board with the Life Insurance quote as provided by Mr. Tom Paplaczyk of Strategic Business Services. The Board reviewed the \$25K & \$50K policies. It was clarified that there is a Line of Duty rider for the policies, as well as, travel insurance. The rate would remain the same for 3 years. After 3 years, the Board will re-evaluate.

- iii. Mr. Rife made a motion with a second from Mr. McClary that the Board approve Group Life AD&D quote for \$25,000 in coverage.
All were in favor.

The Board discussed the Resolution Declaring the Necessity to Levy a Tax. After clarification from Mr. Thayne Gray, the District may pursue a continuous levy; the Board agreed to move forward. The levy will be considered as an outside millage levy as the County collects inside millage of 10 mills.

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03-2021

RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF UNION COUNTY, OHIO

Northwestern Joint Fire District Union County, Ohio

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AN ADDITIONAL LEVY FOR FIRE, EMS AND RELATED PURPOSES IN THE NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, UNION COUNTY, OHIO, AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY CURRENT VALUATION AND TAX MILLAGE RATE

The Board of Township Trustees , Northwestern Joint Fire District, Union County, Ohio, met in regular session on May 12, 2021, at the Liberty Township Community Building, 21463 main Street, Raymond, Ohio, with these members present: Logan Rife, Beth Marshall, and Jerry McClary.

Mr. Jerry McClary introduced this resolution and moved its passage:

WHEREAS, the taxes that may be raised within the ten-mill limitation will not provide adequate funding for the necessary ongoing requirements for Fire, EMS, and related purposes, as provided in R.C. §5705.19(I), for the Northwestern Joint Fire District, Union County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, a resolution declaring the necessity of levying a tax outside the ten-mill limitation must be passed and certified to the County Auditor of Union County to permit the Board of Trustees to consider the levy of such a tax and must request that the County Auditor certify to the Board of Trustees the total current tax valuation of Northwestern Joint Fire District and the tax millage rate required to generate the secified amount of revenue; and

WHEREAS, under R.C. 5705.19(5), a levy for the stated purpose may be levied for a continuing period of time;

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT , UNION COUNTY, OHIO, NOT LESS THAN TWO-THIRDS OF ALL ITS MEMBERS CONCURRING HAS

RESOLVED, that it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation to benefit Northwestern Joint Fire District, Union County, 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 any 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 a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs; be it further

RESOLVED, the tax shall be an Additional levy of 8 mills; be it further

Resolved, the tax is authorized by R.C. 5705.19(I); be it further

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RESOLVED, the tax shall be levied for a continuing period of time; be it further

RESOLVED, the tax is to levied upon the entire territory of the Northwestern Joint Fire District, Union County, Ohio;

RESOLVED, the question shall appear on the ballot at the general election on November 2, 2021; be it further

RESOLVED, the ballot measure shall be submitted to the entire territory of the Northwestern Joint Fire District, Union County, Ohio; be it further

RESOLVED, the levy be placed upon the tax lists beginning in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022, in compliance with R.C. §5705.34, if a majority of the electors voting thereon vote in favor of the levy; be it further

RESOLVED, all of the territory of Northwestern Joint Fire District is in Union County, Ohio; be it further

RESOLVED, the Fiscal Officer is directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor, Union County, Ohio. The Board of Trustees requests that the County Auditor certify to this Board the total tax valuation of Northwestern Joint Fire District and mills required to generate the specified revenue of, if approved by the electors; and be it further

RESOLVED, it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were passed in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, and in compliance with all legal requirements including Revised Code §121.22.

Ms. Beth Marshall seconded the motion, after discussion, the roll was called on the question of its adoption. The vote was:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Logan Rife	Yes
Beth Marshall	Yes
Jerry McClary	Yes

Ms. Hamilton will forward the resolution to Mr. Thayne Gray, Union County Prosecutor for his review and then deliver it to Ms. Weaver, Union County Auditor.

Ms. Hamilton presented the Board with a draft Employment Agreement between the Board and Fire Chief. The agreement outlines expectations, job duties and requirements; as well as wages and benefits. The Trustees and the Fire Chief will further review and advise of any further changes. Ms. Hamilton will then forward the Agreement to Mr. Comstock for his review.

The Board has reviewed the opinion from the Ohio Ethics Commission and have taken Mr. Comstock's comments into consideration on the ability of Mr. Mike Moffett continuing to serve as a member of the Northwestern Joint Fire Department. The Board unanimously agreed Mr.

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Moffett could continue his service and be paid for his time without conflict of interest. Mr. Moffett does not hold a seat or a vote on the NWJFD Board.

Chief Merrick presented his monthly report to the Board. The following are some highlights from the report.

He noted the shift fill rate was down to 72% and this was mainly due to the staff being committed for overtime at other departments.

Chief Merrick presented a donation made by the York Township Alumni Association in the amount of \$258.14. The Board accepted the donation with gratitude.

The new heart monitors have been placed into service.

Chief Merrick has been working on the EMS provider contracts; these contracts are lengthy but are necessary for the District to receive insurance funds directly.

Chief Merrick is coordinating with the Chiefs of Northern Union County Fire Department and the Southeast Hardin Northwestern Union Fire Department to meet with the Solar Company. It is important all three Fire Departments receive the same information to effectively serve and protect the Community.

Chief Merrick completed the CISM program for Union County.

Chief Merrick presented the Board with the following New Hires: Chris East, Dallas Thomas and Zach Reid.

Chief Merrick advised the Board the following members would receive increases following confirmation from the State on their Paramedic Certification: Brian Daum and Tyler Furry. The Board had previously approved the wage rates for Paramedics.

It was discussed, the State of Ohio will be lifting the mask mandate effective June 2. The Board would like to schedule an open house type of event for the District.

Chief Merrick will ask the Raymond VF to move the candy machine to make room for a treadmill and other exercise equipment. The Chief would also like to see the Raymond VF involved in selling items; such as hats & t-shirts as a fund raiser. The members would be able to pay for items through a payroll deduction.

Chief Merrick presented the Board with a quote from the Richwood Banking Company Marketing Division for social media services and reconstruction/maintenance of the Website. Mr. Thomas advised he believed the Website should be priority. The Board discussed the options and agreed the first and most important step was to work on the Website. The quote for the Website includes 30 hours of time from RBC.

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- iv. Mr. Rife made a motion to accept the quote in the amount of \$2500 with \$10.99 monthly maintenance fees for the District website. Mr. McClary seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

The Board set a meeting to meet with the Chief at 6 p.m., one hour prior to the meeting scheduled for July 14, 2021.

- v. Mr. Rife made a motion to accept Chief Merrick's report. Ms. Marshall seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Mr. Rife made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Ms. Marshall seconding the motion. All were in favor. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted By:

Allison M. Hamilton, Fiscal Officer

Northwestern Joint Fire District

Reviewed:

_____ Logan Rife

_____ Beth Marshall

_____ Jerry McClary