

WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT FIRE BOARD

February 14, 2008 Meeting

Paul George opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Etna – Paul George; Harrison – Larry Kretzmann; Jersey – Derek Myers; Kirkersville – Erika Mudd; Reynoldsburg – Douglas Joseph. Kenneth King (Pataskala) was absent.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Nathan Corum, Chris Bitler, and Rex Johnson of the Firefighters' Association presented \$1,500 of safety equipment (Emergency-Scene Ahead & Training Ahead Signs, and struts to stabilize wrecked vehicles) to the Fire District that was purchased with proceeds from last year's Street Fair. The Board expressed their appreciation for this generous donation to the Fire District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kretzmann motioned to approve the January 10, 2008 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Joseph seconded. Vote: Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes; Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes; Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, abstained. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Mr. Kretzmann motioned to approve warrants 23071 – 23133. Mrs. Mudd seconded. Vote: Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes; Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes. **Motion carried.**

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

Ms. Krugh reported that the 2007 Annual Financial Report was advertised as having been completed and may be reviewed by the public, and also advertised that the WLJFD Board of Trustees hold their regular public meeting at 7:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month, and the public is encouraged to attend.

RESOLUTION 2008-01 – Permit Fiscal Officer to request Licking County Auditor for Tax Advances as they are available in 2008. Mr. Kretzmann motioned to approve Resolution 2008-01. Mr. Joseph seconded. Vote: Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes; Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes; Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2008-02 – Authorize Fiscal Officer to move money within a fund on the fund level. Mr. Kretzmann motioned to approve Resolution 2008-02. Mr. Joseph seconded. Vote: Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes; Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2008-03 – Authorize Fiscal Officer to establish blanket certificate expiration dates up to and including December 31, 2008. Mr. Kretzmann motioned to approve Resolution 2008-03. Mr. Joseph seconded. Vote: Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes; Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes; Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes. **Motion carried.**

Mr. George provided Ms. Krugh and the Board with a finalized list of the WLJFD 2008 Committee Members. They are as follows:

2008 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Labor-Management – Derek Myers, Chairperson; Larry Kretzmann, Paul George.

Buildings & Land Committee – Doug Joseph, Chairperson; Kenneth King, Larry Kretzmann.

Budget Committee – Derek Myers, Chairperson; Paul George, Kenneth King.

Legislative Committee – Doug Joseph, Chairperson; Derek Myers, Kenneth King

Volunteer Firefighters' Dependents Fund – Paul George, Chairperson; Erika Mudd, Assistant Chief Ken Mathews, Rex Johnson

Job Description Committee – Kenneth King, Chairperson; Erika Mudd, Larry Kretzmann

Insurance Committee – Doug Joseph, Chairperson; Paul George, Erika Mudd

Ms. Krugh reminded the Board that the IRS had increased mileage reimbursement from 48.5 to 50.5 cents per mile for 2008. The Board determined that mileage reimbursement is contractual, and would be discussed during contract negotiations later this year.

Ms. Krugh stated that the Fire District needs to have a Records Commission, and according to the Ohio Revised Code, that Commission would include Mr. George as Chairperson and Ms. Krugh as Secretary. A Records Officer would need to be appointed, and the Commission would have to meet at least once annually. Ms. Krugh informed the Board that the upcoming Local Government Officials Conference will be providing the required three-hour Public Records H.B. 9 training, and she would like to attend, in addition to Peggy Davis.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Weber presented the 2008 General Fund and 1 Mil Budget and Appropriations as reviewed by the Budget Committee to the Board. Mr. Kretzmann asked for clarification of the 1 Mil Fund's purpose. Mr. Myers stated that the 1 Mil Fund is utilized only for capital improvements/expenditures and equipment purchases. The 1 Mil Fund can not be used for operating expenses such as wages, pensions, etc. Mr. Myers reiterated that even though equipment purchases have been budgeted, the Chief must still come before the Board to request approval to purchase that equipment. Chief Weber stated that there are sufficient funds in the General Fund to hire nine new firefighter/paramedics without having to put a new levy on the ballot. There is an expected \$8 mil carryover at the end of 2008.

RESOLUTION 2008-04 - Approve the 2008 General Fund and 1 Mil Budget and Appropriations as presented by Chief Weber. Mr. Myers motioned to approve Resolution 2008-04. Mr. Kretzmann seconded. Vote: Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes; Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes. **Motion carried.**

Chief Weber presented a list of office equipment that is no longer operable or obsolete. Mr. Kretzmann motioned to dispose of the office equipment as listed. Mr. Joseph seconded. Vote: Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes; Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes. **Motion carried.**

Chief Weber discussed the issue of Truro Township and “conforming boundaries.” He stated that three entities’ Fire Chiefs have met to discuss this issue, which is essentially a “land grab,” but entirely legal. He also stated that The Limited is highly opposed to this. He informed the Board that he doesn’t think there is much credibility regarding this matter.

Chief Weber thanked the Firefighters’ Association for their generous donation of safety equipment to the District, which would help ensure the safety of the employees and residents alike, which is paramount.

Chief Weber stated that he is ready to begin hiring new full-time firefighter/paramedics and would like to have them on the payroll by the end of May. He would hire/select from the pool of part-time firefighter/paramedics, but could also go outside if there are not enough qualified applicants available in the existing pool of part-time firefighter/paramedics.

Mr. Kretzmann motioned to allow Chief Weber begin the hiring process for up to six (6) full-time firefighter/paramedics, who will have a start date of no earlier than May 31, 2008. Mr. Joseph seconded. Vote: Etna – Mr. George, yes; Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes; Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes; Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes. **Motion carried.**

Chief Weber provided the Board with a list of qualifications for the position of Fire Chief.

COMMITTEES’ REPORTS:

Buildings & Land Committee (Mr. Joseph and Mr. Kretzmann) presented their recommendations for an architect for proposed Station 4. Their recommendation was unanimous for WDC Group, 23 S. Center Street, Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Kretzmann motioned to hire WDC Group as architect, proceed with the timeline, and then with the feasibility study next. Mr. Joseph seconded. Vote: Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes; Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes; Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes. **Motion carried.**

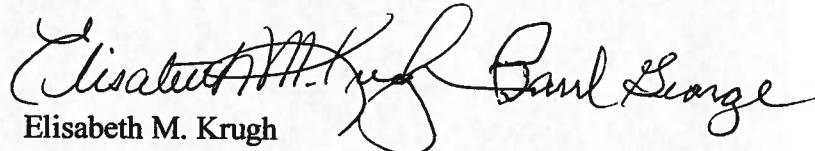
Frank Harmon of Ohio Insurance Services presented the Board with the proposed Medical Mutual insurance renewal. Initially, the rate increase was 25%, was then reduced to 15%, and the final rate renewal increase was further reduced to 10.9%. He stated that our cost per member is competitive and low based on 2006 SERB figures. Ms. Krugh informed the Board that the Fire District participates in the annual SERB health insurance census, and our information is part of that overall study.

Mr. Kretzmann motioned to approve the Medical Mutual major medical health insurance renewal as presented to the Board, with a 10.9% increase from the 2007 rates. Mr. Myers seconded. Vote: Reynoldsburg – Mr. Joseph, yes; Etna – Mr. George, yes; Harrison – Mr. Kretzmann, yes; Kirkersville – Mrs. Mudd, yes; Jersey – Mr. Myers, yes. **Motion carried.**

The Board inquired whether it would be possible to receive the renewal information earlier next year, so they would have more time to review Mr. Harmon's proposal. Mr. Harmon stated that he only receives a 45-day notice for renewal, but would try to allow more review time for the Board.

There being no further business, Mr. George adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elisabeth M. Krugh
Fiscal Officer

Note: These minutes are unofficial, subject to amendment, until approved by the Fire Board Members.

Guests present: Assistant Chief Harold Williams, Assistant Chief Ken Mathews, Harold Wolford, Mike Byrd, Rex Johnson, John Stemen, Adam Gottfried, Nathan Corum, Chris Bitler, Frank Harmon