



WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 26, 2012

Special Board Meeting

Derek Myers opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Jersey – Derek Myers

Harrison – Mark Van Buren

Etna – Randy Foor

Kirkersville – Brian Denton

Pataskala – Mike Fox

Reynoldsburg –

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

BC Brad Williams.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None

REVIEW REQUESTED LEVY INFORMATION FROM THE COUNTY AUDITOR:

Mr. Fox stated from the information we received from the County Auditor, a \$2 mill replacement would generate \$1,827,700; a \$2 mill renewal would generate \$1,748,200. To renew and decrease to \$1.5 mill would generate \$1,370,700. Mr. Fox stated the estimated revenue is approximately \$600K annually from EMS billing. Mr. Fox voiced it would make a good statement to the public we are trying to be as fiscally responsible as we can. Right now, everybody is hurting, many businesses are going under, many are unemployed, and some are losing their homes. Mr. Fox further stated a decrease from \$2 mill to \$1.5 mill in combination with the EMS billing would generate about \$150K additional from the original \$2 mill replacement. A \$1.5 mill levy plus the EMS billing would generate approximately \$1,970,700 compared to a \$2 mill replacement at \$1,827,700.

Mr. Fox stated he has spoken with many residents regarding the EMS billing. Many residents he has spoken with didn't understand. Those he has spoken to, now understand.

Mr. Van Buren voiced a concern about reducing the \$2 mill levy. Mr. Fox stated it will be an additional \$100K, more than the original replacement. He stated we will have other renewals that will become available in the next couple of years. Ms. Krugh stated \$750K was an estimated projection received from MED3000 for the EMS billing. Mr. Fox asked for clarification regarding the EMS billing revenue fund being included in the budget or not. Ms. Krugh believes it is not included in the budget.

Mr. Myers reported he had received a phone call from Chad Klimack of the *Pataskala Standard*. Mr. Klimack inquired if any other items were going to be discussed at the meeting. Mr. Myers confirmed the Board was looking at reducing the levy from \$2 mill to \$1.5 mill due to the increase in revenue from EMS billing. Mr. Klimack stated in his twelve years of reporting, never had an entity lowered their millage. He thought this was a good thing.

Mr. Myers confirmed with Ms. Krugh that a \$2 mill renewal would generate \$1,748,200. Ms. Krugh also confirmed that the \$2 mill is currently receiving \$1,760,000. Mr. Myers stated, so if we go to a \$1.5 mill that generates \$1,370,700, we would have a deficit of \$377,500. If we generate \$600K from EMS billing and consider the reduction in real estate taxes, we still have a net increase to the budget of \$225,500.

Mr. Foor stated if we renew the \$2 mill levy, the annual cost for a \$100K home will cost the homeowner \$59.89. A \$1.5 mill levy would cost the same homeowner \$45.94 annually, which equates to \$1.16 per month savings. Mr. Foor reminded others, part of the purpose for EMS billing is to offset the additional cost for doing business in the District, such as fuel, labor, salaries, benefits, etc. and to collect from non-residents who utilize emergency medical services provided by the District.

Ms. Krugh stated for all to be mindful of the continuing permanent \$1 mill levy, which will only collect \$454,459 this year per the County Auditor's estimate. That levy's revenue continues to fluctuate and/or decrease. Mr. Myers stated the \$1 mill should generate the same amount. The affected millage the taxpayers are paying should go down, but the amount to District should continue. Mr. Myers stated it should generate what \$1 mill was worth at that time, in 1984.

Mr. Van Buren asked for confirmation, if we renew and decrease to \$1.5 mill, will \$200K still be added to the budget if we bring in \$600K in EMS billing. Mr. Myers confirmed, yes.

Mr. Fox discussed the EMS billing report that reflects money that should be collected vs. what is actually collected. Mr. Myers questioned why the May EMS runs were so low. The MED3000 report states the May transports totaled 87; for all other months the transports were over 200. It is believed the report did not capture the entire month.

BC Brad Williams questioned if the \$600K figure does or does not include expenses such as EMS supplies and other items. He stated in the past we were able to exchange supplies, whereas now we have to purchase them. Assistant Chief Williams stated the EMS supplies will increase from the originally budgeted \$60K to about \$150K annually. Ms. Krugh reiterated \$600K is just an estimate; we did not begin collecting until March, 2012 and have collected about \$203K to date. The \$600K also does not reflect the charges that must be deducted for MED3000's billing services.

Mr. Foor stated two levies expire in the year 2014, a \$2 mill and \$1 mill levy. Ms. Krugh confirmed.

Resolution 2012-10: Mr. Fox motioned to renew and decrease the \$2 mill to \$1.5 mill and to approve the necessity to tax outside the \$10M limitation for Fire Protection and Emergency Services and request the County Auditor to certify the valuation and revenue information pursuant to ORC 5705.03b. Mr. Denton seconded. Vote: Myers – yes; Foor – *no*; Van Buren – yes; Denton – yes; Fox – yes; **Motion carried.**

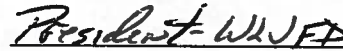
Mr. Myers adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elisabeth M. Krugh
Fiscal Officer

APPROVED:


Board of Trustees
Title

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

Guests present: AC Harold Williams