



REFUGEE-CANYON JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes
27 August 2020

Present Members:

Dr. Tony Forshey, Chairperson
Mr. Charles Prince, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Richard Moore, Member
Mr. Randy Weekly, Member
Mr. Randy Wolf, Member

Present Staff:

Mr. Clifford L. Mason, Fire Chief
Ms. Amanda N. Perkowski, Fiscal Officer

Present from the Public: The meeting was made public via live stream on RCFD's Facebook page. There were seventy-seven (77) live viewers.

Location: Refugee-Canyon Fire District, 111 Basin Street, Hebron, OH

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Forshey who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Comments from live-stream listeners were directed to be sent by email to station350@rcfiredistrict.org. One comment received is attached, including RCFD's response.

Mr. Prince moved to appoint Troy Kurtz, FF/EMT/Paramedic, to a part-time position effective 05 September 2020. Mr. Wolf seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Chairperson Forshey swore-in and welcomed Mr. Kurtz to RCFD.

The minutes from the previous regular meeting held 13 August 2020 and the revised minutes for the regular meeting 23 July 2020 were reviewed. Mr. Moore moved to approve the minutes as submitted, and Mr. Wolf seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk/ Fiscal Officer's Report: None

Chief's Report:

The board was informed that part-time firefighter, Lawrence Tittle, is now a paramedic.

Chief Mason referenced Resolution #14-2020 (Rescue Billing) listed under New Business, and asked the board to review it but did not request action to be taken at this time.

Old Business:

Update on Station 352: Mr. Prince informed the board that work on the foundation for the apparatus bay continues. The final concrete was poured and the footers have been prepared; this work was approved by the Licking County Building Code Department. Work has been done to redirect water away from the front of the building. Solid Steel Buildings intends to deliver the building early next week.



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Paint was purchased for the interior, public portions of the building. Once equipment is able to be put in the permanent structure, the temporary building will be declared surplus and sold.

The surplus items sold on GovDeals generated a total of \$3,877.54. All items, except for four, have been picked up. The remaining items are expected to be picked up soon.

New business:

Mr. Weekly moved to approve Resolution #13-2020 in the matter of certifying funds. Mr. Wolf seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Members' Minute:

Mr. Moore shared that the village hired a new Administrator to start in a couple weeks. Village Council expressed concern about disinfecting the council chambers following a scheduled blood drive on September 3; RCFD has the appropriate equipment and will fumigate the room for the village.

Mr. Prince shared that "Blast" is having a pop-up fireworks show on September 4, over Buckeye Lake.

Executive Session: Mr. Prince moved to enter into executive session at 7:20 PM pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) to consider the compensation of a public employee. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. At 7:45 PM, Mr. Weekly moved to reconvene from executive session, and Mr. Prince seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The next regular meeting will be September 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the RCFD station.

Mr. Prince moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM, and Mr. Moore seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.


APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

Dr. Tony Forshey, Chair




Mr. Richard Moore, Member

Mr. Randy Wolf, Member



Mr. Charles Prince, Vice Chair



Mr. Randy Weekly, Member

Clifford L. Mason, Fire Chief

From: Clifford L. Mason, Fire Chief <firechief@rcfiredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 1:05 PM
To: 'Daniel Blatter'
Subject: RE: Fire District Levy

Dan, thank you for your comments. The resolution between the village and the township outlines very clearly in Article XV, Section 4: *The Fire District may place a levy on the ballot. The millage of the levy shall be determined by the Fire District Board of Trustees. If the levy fails to pass, the Village and Township shall continue to fund the District as set forth in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article. If the levy passes, the Village and Township shall terminate the levies by passage of a resolution stating that the continuation of the municipal or township levies is unnecessary and that the levies shall be terminated. The termination of the levies shall occur in such a manner so as to assure the uninterrupted receipt of levy funds by the District. All financial support of the District by the Village and Township, as set forth in this Article, shall then cease.*

That said, once a fire district levy is passed both the village and the township are **required** by the resolution to remove the existing levies from collection by the auditor.

The reason there is no language in or on the ballot explaining this, is because the Fire District has no authority to "tell the village and township" to remove existing levies which they established in "ballot" language. However, it is spelled out very clearly in the resolution forming the district. I have had conversations with representatives of both the village and the township, and have been assured that once a fire district levy is passed, they will act accordingly and remove the existing language, thereby eliminating the current levies.

I would encourage and welcome a face-to-face conversation with you or any resident about the intent to create said fire district. The only objective was to decrease the amount of response times to the western and northernmost portions of Union Township. I am confident with the additional station and subsequent staffing 24/7 we have been able to decrease the response times. I am happy to share real response time information as provided by the Licking County Regional Communication Center with respect to response time prior to staffing the Lancaster Rd. station versus the response time from the Lancaster Rd. station currently staffed. Along with a reduction in response time, there are three more staff members available daily to provide services. This equates to either an additional fire engine or medic vehicle adequately staffed to support the engine and medic staffed at Hebron. With the passage of the levy, additional staff will be considered to increase staffing at the Lancaster Rd. station in an effort to respond both an engine and a medic.

If you would like to further discuss the levy or any part of the fire district, I would welcome that at any time. Please feel free to e-mail me directly if you prefer: firechief@rcfiredistrict.org

Respectfully,

Clifford L. Mason
Fire Chief

From: Daniel Blatter [<mailto:blatterdaniel@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 11:45 AM
To: station350@rcfiredistrict.org
Cc: Dan Blatter
Subject: Fire District Levy

Fire District Board,

Upon learning of the 8.5 mil levy the Fire District has placed on the November ballot, I contacted the Chief Deputy Auditor to ask what I might be paying should the levy pass. The response I received stated the amount the levy would cost me on my home and pointed out that there was no elimination of the present Fire/EMS levies. The increase in tax for me, in the Granville School District, would be over 12.5%. This assumes there is no increase in my property value as this is the triennial tax update year and values may change. The increase in my Lakewood School District vacant property is also over 10%.

I have to say, this is quite high, so I will not be able to support your levy. For me this has to be paid from after-tax earnings.

You mentioned, in meeting minutes, that the Township & Village could eliminate their Fire/EMS levies, but I did not see reference to any legal opinion stating that could take place.

I have been silent too long. I do not believe the need for such a Fire District was ever demonstrated and I do not see a benefit to the public welfare by its creation.

Respectfully,

Dan Blatter, Union Township resident and President, Reserve at Granville HOA