Westfield Township Fire and Rescue District Working Session

4/10/2024

The working session began at 6:05 pm.

Attendance: Micheal Schmidt, Craig Horner, Kent Patterson, Melissa Kurtz, Terri Grimm, Julie Carr, Chief Hall, Lee Evans along with many residents from the township and village.

Terri Grimm kicks off the Westfield Township Fire and Rescue District Working Session with what the meeting is about and looking for as much open, honest, and transparent communication as possible.

Schmidt shares the history of the fire district beginning. He shared the current millage by surrounding townships. Westfield Township is at 2.5 where surrounding townships are at 4.0 and higher. Horner shares that it costs around $12,000 to hire and train a firefighter. Patterson shared the money from the levy will be used in operating the fire department. Kurtz shared the budget allocations for the township and the fire district and shared that the budgets are completely separate. Chief Hall shared that he spent the last 11 years as Chief at Lafayette. He shared during that time the items he bought for the fire department and the costs and that today's cost are significantly higher unfortunately. He referred to SWOT analysis that Chief Fletcher created. He added that they apply for every grant available that can help offset the budget as much as possible, however it still isn't enough for successfully operating and future costs of the fire district.

Chief Hall shared cost of equipment, when they may need to replace, and the cost of replacement.

Points brought up from the public: wants term limits on millage being asked for, why not volunteers, costs of equipment, tenure of staff, one full time employee, what are the funds for, how the funds work with taxes, villages payment to the fire district budget, appreciation for the fire department's assistance, creating an outreach program to get the community more involved, what does the fire department NEED to move forward, having numbers of what the fire department needs for the next meeting, prefers renewable levy's, wanting transparency, ideas of what millage is needed, what the village pays being discussed, more education.

Horner made motion to end working session. Patterson seconds. Working session ends at 7:25 pm.

Minutes completed by: Julie Carr, Township Administrator

Michael Schmidt

Craig Horner

Kent Patterson