

Meeting on fire levy info occurs today

7/29/2024 12:00:00 AM

Patrick Rhonemus The Gazette

WESTFIELD TWP. - Westfield Township officials and the Fire and Rescue Department will have an informational meeting today about the fire levy that will be on the November ballot.

The meeting will be held tonight from 6-8 p.m. at the Westfield Township Fire and Rescue Department, located at 8515 Virginia Drive. Levy information coordinator Terri Grimm said this meeting is a follow-up to the April 10th meeting where questions were collected. Since that meeting the township has also collected more questions.

"We have done a lot of fact-searching and got all of the data that we think we need for the meeting," Grimm said. "This just continues our commitment to sharing the facts with them."

The meeting is being held to allow those interested the opportunity to learn the facts around the data, so they can make an informed decision to either support or oppose the proposed levy.

Grimm said there will be three main categories of discussion.

They include:

What the levy is, the millage, and how the township came up with that number. Why the levy is needed, how the money will be used, and how it will affect people's taxes. What would happen if it fails, with discussions of budget cuts that are currently in effect for the fire and rescue department and trustees.

Grimm said there will be a PowerPoint presentation, a Q&A session, as well as an opportunity for attendees to see the vehicles that are in bad shape and need repaired that are currently used by the fire department. Firefighters and the department chiefs will also be there to answer questions and meet with residents.

"They're going to have people go out and show them some of the stuff that is going wrong with these vehicles," she said. "They've put a lot of repair costs into the two vehicles that they need to replace in 2024, and show them what's going wrong with them, and then talk about what new vehicles cost."

Grimm said the township has a lot more facts to share with the community.

"I think people should get the facts from us with the data to back it up instead of hearing stuff through the grapevine, from their neighbor, or on the internet," she said.

A handout will be available with a QR code which will provide information and access to a webpage where those interested can get all the information that will be shared during the meeting. Grimm said this information is important for voters to make an informed decision on the proposed levy.

"They need to make an informed decision," she said. "If we get them all of the information as to why the trustees have put it on the ballot, that will help them do that. We want them to get the facts from us with data that supports it."

Grimm said examples of what will be discussed is how operating costs have gone up, and what the fire department and township have done to keep costs as low as possible.

"We want them to know that we just didn't make up this 2.5 mill, five-year levy," she said. "It's got background and information as to why that levy is what it is."

Contact reporter Patrick Rhonemus at (330) 721-4050 or prhonemus@medina-gazette.com.