WESTFIELD FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT WORKING SESSION

October 9, 2024

The Westfield Fire and Rescue District Working Session, hosted by the Westfield Township Trustees, was called to order at 6:04 pm by Kent Patterson.

Roll Call- Micheal Schmidt- here, Kent Patterson- here, Craig Horner- here

Patterson asked for a moment of silence.

Included is an exhibit of the power-point presentation that was covered at the session.

Terri Grimm introduced Township Trustees and Fire & Rescue employees.

Video developed by the Fire & Rescue Team was shared on the TV.

Chief Jeff Hall shared the following to answer the question "Why is a new fire vehicle needed? Why not rely more on outside assistance." We assist neighboring departments, and they assist us when needed. It is not a good practice to rely on neighboring districts who maybe short staffed or out on another call. We have a vehicle that is 25 years old, that is the age restriction by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) which shares their standard that a vehicle should 20 years old or less for front line service and 5 years or less for reserve service. Our vehicle is now 25 years old. It takes 3 years to build a vehicle, which if we ordered today would put our current vehicle at 28-29 years old when a new truck will be on site. He added that this is his full-time job but it is also his calling in life, and his passion. He shared what keeps him up at night- calls always being covered, equipment being safe for his team and their wellbeing, community residents getting the service they deserve and need.

Assistant Chief Dave Young shared what he likes the most about his job is the challenge as no call is ever the same. He works extremely hard on getting every grant possible, which takes a lot of time researching and applying.

Tim Miller shared that Westfield Fire & Rescue is a team, a family, and he works for some of the greatest people he has ever met. He enjoys the challenge of the job. He worries that the equipment is aging and that the help needed is always available for the community.

Chris Gore said he is not in this for the money, and he understands cuts needed made to work within the budget from years ago. While that has been done, it is difficult to continue with the aging equipment and vehicles. He has a passion for this, the team is the best team around. They are a family and with Chief Hall's leadership they are in great hands. Recently, they had a golf outing fund raiser that earned $7000, this money will be used to purchase rescue apparatus for their UTV. This is used to assist people when need off road, such as parks or wooded areas where other equipment cannot travel.

Chris Blair said he is a third-generation firefighter. He met Chief Hall years ago and he is one of the reasons why he is here. He stays at Westfield because of the community.

Multiple members of the fire department have full time jobs outside of working for Westfield Fire & Rescue- many are firefighters for other counties. After their other jobs, they are often coming for another part-time shift at Westfield.

Mayor Horwedel shared that Jeff Hall is building a leadership in the fire department that has been outstanding. He is doing a remarkable job. He said he supports the levy, he knows it is needed. He appreciates that no calls have been missed since 2013 and that is very impressive.

Rick Robb said the Fire & Rescue team add a great value to the community, and they need the levy to continue. He said having an educated and skilled team responding to calls is such a value add.

Trustees shared that it isn't just the township and village, but we need to take into consideration the schools, businesses, soccer fields.

Fire and Rescue has on average over 50 calls a month- skilled men and woman need to be on staff to handle these calls with the correct and safe equipment and tools.

Terri Grimm added that we are happy to take any questions, please email us to info@westfieldtownship.org, There is support documents, Facts and Q&A that answers every levy question we've received on the website: www.westfieldtownshipi.org.

Patterson makes a motion to end the work session at 7:05. Horner seconds the motion. Role Call- Horner- yes, Patterson- yes.

Meeting adjourned.

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Kent Patterson

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Michael Schmidt

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Craig Horner