

**Westfield Township Board of Trustees Special Meeting
June 10, 2026 6:00 pm**

Meeting location: 6699 Buffham Rd.

James Likley called the special meeting with Village Council of Westfield Center to order at 6:00 pm for the purpose of creating a joint fire district discussion.

Roll call: Joseph Doty, James Likley, Kent Patterson, Tera Seiwerth

Others in attendance: Legal Counsel Nathan Kott, Chief Hall, AC Young

Mayor Robbs called the Village Council meeting to order, roll call with all council members present, Fiscal Officer and Legal Counsel Aaron Harrison present.

Likley's opening statement identified the village council's concerns from the previous special meeting regarding their representation of village residents to the fire department operations, budget and funding. Likewise, the Trustees concern to going back to the residents with another levy attempt under the same fire district funding structure. The creation of a Joint Fire District was offered to the Village Council for consideration. This will provide direct representation of the oversight of department operations as requested. The Joint Fire District Board of Trustees would have representation from both Village Council and Board of Trustees in this separate entity. The joint district would then allow all residents in the service area of Westfield Fire and Rescue, both village and township, to vote on the level of service that they want. If the levy on the November ballot is successful, then the present 2.5 mill continuous levy presently collecting at 1.34 mills would be discontinued along with the present fire district of the unincorporated area of the township. All fire department operations oversight and budget would be under the new joint fire district board of trustees as of January 1, 2027.

Robbs appreciated the Trustees hearing their concerns and willingness to offer the creation of the joint district and supported the same. He felt that this was needed and a step in the right direction to properly fund the department. The concerns moving forward were the time to create and to be able to be on the ballot in November with a joint fire district levy and the logistic of the same.

AP Kott and Village legal counsel Harrison laid out the steps;

1. Both Council and Trustees agree and sign a Joint District Resolution creating the Joint Fire District.
2. Both Council and Trustee appoint one Board member from each and one resident member from each area to the Joint District Board of Trustees (JDBT)

3. The JDBT schedule and advertise for a meeting to determine millage rate and length of term of levy by a Resolution sent to the Medina County Auditor to certify collections.
4. Once the Certificate of Collections is received from Auditors office, the JDBT prepares Resolution of ballot language, millage rate and length of term to the Medina County Board of Election by the first week of August. The ballot language shall identify that the purpose of this new joint fire district levy is to eliminate the present 2.5 mill continuous levy and present fire district of the unincorporated area of Westfield Township.

Discussion on Joint District Clerk or Fiscal Officer, legal counsel to the Joint District, Board appointments and process, Joint District insurance coverage. Discussion of the need to provide communication to the residents and participation of all Council members, Trustees, and department members to work on the levy committee. Discussion about funding comparisons of surrounding communities to our present levels and what the new levy will be asking for is still far less than all other surrounding communities.

It was verbally agreed by all to move forward with creation of the Joint District, the Joint District Board of Trustees and the Joint District levy proposal on the November ballot.

Chief Hall thanked everyone for these efforts to come together for the funding needs and structure of the Joint Fire District.

It was agreed that a special meeting of Trustees and Village Council will be called once the Resolution of a Joint District can be prepared, date to be determined but targeting June 30th. At that meeting JDBT members will be identified and their meeting scheduled and noticed to proceed with Resolution to the auditor of millage rate and term.

Motion to adjourn by both Boards was offered, seconded and carried at 7:40pm.

Minutes prepared by Township Administrator, Julie Carr.

Signed:

James Likley

Joseph Doty

Kent Patterson

Date approved 6/15/26