



Williamsburg Township Newsletter

Ohio

www.williamsburgtownship.org

P.O. Box 499, Williamsburg, Ohio 45176-0499

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER 2022

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Township Trustee Meetings ~ 2nd & 4th Monday 7:00 PM at Township Hall, located on Alexander Ln.

Williamsburg Township Newsletter can be seen at Williamsburgtownship.org

Special Williamsburg Township Newsletter

Chief Wiedemann Announces Retirement

Chief Kevin Wiedemann has announced his retirement effective September 29, 2022. Chief joined Williamsburg Emergency Services in 1986, while still in High School. He served as our Assistant Chief for ten years, from 2005 through 2015. Mr. Wiedemann was then appointed as Chief in 2015 and has served the community in that capacity for the last 6 years. During that time, with the Emergency Services, he was an officer in various capacities for thirty-two years, sharing his experience in the Fire/EMS services. We are grateful for his service and dedication. On behalf of the community we thank you and we wish you the best in retirement!

Chief McCarthy Named New Chief for Williamsburg Emergency Services

Eleven highly skilled individuals submitted resumes, which reflected a very strong talent pool for the position of Williamsburg Emergency Services Chief. Each candidate, from various departments reflected pride, loyalty, and integrity, which is synonymous to the emergency services vocation. Traits that would reflect the professionalism and honor of the trade. After interviewing many high caliber candidates, a collective choice was made that will support our team at Williamsburg Emergency Services, and more importantly, our community.

Jason McCarthy has accepted the appointment as the next Williamsburg Emergency Chief, effective September 30, 2022. Chief McCarthy graduated from McNicholas High School in 2002. He immediately started achieving skills and abilities as a Firefighter, EMT/Paramedic, Fire Safety Inspector and has continued to expand his portfolio in emergency services, such as; Firefighter II, Paramedic, Certified Fire Safety Inspector, EMS Continuing Education Instructor, Rope Rescue Technician, Water Technician with Swift Water Operations, Ice Rescue Technician, Certified Ice Rescue Trainer (Certified through Dive Rescue International), CPR, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. He has served in the Monroe Township Fire Department, as a Firefighter/Paramedic. From 2008 through 2022, he served at Central Joint Fire-EMS District as a Firefighter/Paramedic, six of those years as a Lieutenant. Jason has been serving as a volunteer with Williamsburg Township Emergency Services since 2012, and now we are excited to see his leadership as our next dedicated Williamsburg Emergency Chief. Congratulations Chief McCarthy!

Fire & EMS Levy Tuesday, November 8, 2022 Ballot

A decision has been made to put the Fire & EMS levy back on the November 8, 2022 ballot. We recognize that we need to do a better job to justify the reasoning and explain the need. For some time, Williamsburg Emergency Services has operated, by and large, with volunteers. Many volunteers have left this field due to the COVID19 risk and the economy. Overtime, volunteerism has reduced for this township from over 53 volunteers to 13, an approximate reduction of 75%.

- Continued From Page 1 -

Regardless if the Emergency Services personnel is full time, part time, or volunteer, these professionals are leaving this trade throughout the state and country, just not this area. Another reason for attrition is retirement. Regardless of the reason why this talent is leaving the field, it is difficult to attract full time employees, part time employees, and volunteers. This situation causes the staff we have to cover a lot of shifts, which sustained, is not a reasonable and not a constant solution to the challenge. Due to the staffing challenges we face, the response times in the evening and on the weekend are increasing.

In order to compete with larger departments in the area; which offer more money and hours, wages have been increased to retain our current manpower. This and other increased expenses have caused an operating deficit of approximately \$100,000.00 each year for the last three years. In the township budget, there are several pools of money dedicated to certain responsibilities. For example, there is a General Fund, Road & Bridge Fund, Cemetery Fund, Zoning Fund, Fire Fund, and EMS Fund, to name a few. These funds are dedicated to specific departments and must be utilized according to the responsibilities of those areas. The \$100,000.00 operating deficit has occurred specifically in the Fire and EMS Funds.

Our current design has the Chief as a working Chief and one full time employee on the fire side, Monday through Friday, 8am through 5pm, to cover fire calls. The remainder of the week, nights and weekends, fire calls are covered by volunteers, when available, responding from home, which increases the run time due to traveling from home to the department, gearing up, and traveling to the emergency. We also currently have two part time, first responders, at the station 24 hours each day 7 days a week to respond to the life squad calls. This is our current model.

The proposed solution, which drives the levy, would create 3 additional full-time employees and additional part time positions. The Chief will maintain his standing as a working Chief, as needed to meet the needs of the daily operations. This would allow the department to schedule 24 hours on and 48 hours off, which is the common trend in the fire service. Basically, this would create three teams of four first responders to be available for immediate response. With increasing staffing and full-time members, as well as utilizing our cherished volunteers for additional coverage, this model will allow for, four first responders to be on duty, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at the Williamsburg Emergency Services Building. The overall goal is to increase staff to provide a professional level of care to the community as well as to build a strong and upcoming full-time community-oriented Williamsburg Emergency Services Department. We strive to provide a level of services the Township of Williamsburg deserves.

If the levy is supported, it will generate approximately \$645,000.00 annually to support the additional full time employees, with benefits, and more part time employees. The levy funds will also cover estimated general increases and other items that drive inflation, to include future wage increases, uniforms, bunker gear and other necessities of the service.

If you want to know what the cost of the proposed levy increase would be on your property, go to clermontauditor.org, select real estate, select property search, select address or your name, put in your address or name, and search. This will bring your property up. On the left in blue is the profile. Go down to Proposed Levies for November 8, 2022 Election and select. This will bring up the estimated tax concerning the proposed 5.0 Mill Fire and EMS Tax Levy on your property. For those who do not have access to a computer, call the Clermont County Auditor who can be reached at 513-732-7150 for further questions regarding taxes.

In the spring levy we were challenged with Nestle' Purina, tax abatements, and other issues.

- Continued On Page 3 -

- Continued from Page 3 -

- ▶ When attracting new business to an area, tax abatements are utilized to bargain business/corporations to an area. This is no different for our township and Nestle' Purina. Even though there is a tax abatement, the South Afton Park (Design Within Reach & Nestle' Purina) initiative has generated over \$380,000.00 in new tax revenue, to this date. This is due to the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD). Also, Nestle' Purina and the Williamsburg School District has reached an understanding concerning new annual revenue through payments, in lieu of taxes. Williamsburg Township, the Village of Williamsburg, and the Williamsburg School District have all benefited financially by this new revenue growth. This growth has been good for our community for many reasons; however, this growth does not address our immediate needs.
- ▶ The revenue the community is receiving from Nestle' Purina is significant in comparison to the tax base that would be generated from an agriculture field.
- ▶ Regardless if Design Within Reach or Nestle' Purina built within Williamsburg Township, the need for the levy would still exist due to the economy, lack of volunteers, and a limited amount of qualified talent to draw from.
- ▶ The Fire/EMS Funds will receive 100% of the moneys generated from the levy.
- ▶ Issues were brought up about the language on the ballot, more specifically the verbiage concerning under water rescue. This language is standard Ohio Revised Code (ORC) language, for this type of levy. Williamsburg Township does not create this verbiage.
- ▶ We are doing our best to generate **meaningful change**, managing the South Afton corridor and beyond, while managing the potential growth in our community with zoning. Waiting for a crisis to properly adjust is not good leadership/management.
- ▶ Williamsburg Township Emergency Services need volunteer staff. **Anyone interested in volunteering, please call Chief McCarthy at 513-724-7744.**

Special Williamsburg Township Meetings Announced **Concerning the Levy**

The Williamsburg Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer have scheduled Special Meetings, at the Williamsburg Emergency Services Building to explain the challenges, and why there is a need for a levy. On **Wednesday, October 26th and Wednesday, November 2nd** starting at **7pm** the Township residences are invited to listen to reasoning for the need of an Emergency Services Levy and asked questions pertaining to this topic. The meetings concern the services that are provided in this community, to you and your family, in the township. If you are interested, pick a meeting date that best supports your schedule. This will be the only business discussed, no other business will be conducted at this special meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Special Newsletter. Please review the document and bring your questions to be answered at the Special Meeting that fits your schedule. If either date does not fit your schedule, **Williamsburg Township meetings are held the second and fourth Monday each month at 7pm.**

Our Community is a tremendous place to live and an incredible place to raise a Family!

Respectfully,

Guy Bainum
Trustee

Bari Henning
Trustee

Gary Jordan
Trustee

Doug Lefferson
Fiscal Officer

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY



Volunteers Needed

Fire & EMS Levy Tuesday, November 8, 2022

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Keeping you informed.

Williamsville Township Newsletter
P.O. Box 499
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