



Concord Township, *Lake County, Ohio*

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Concord Township Corrects Misinformation that is Circulating about the Fire Station Levy

Voters Deserve Correct Information Before Casting Vote

(Concord Township, OH) It is important that residents have the correct information before casting their vote on the Fire Station Bond Issue. The bond levy on the ballot for November 3, 2020 is a responsible .6 mill levy (\$21.00 per \$100k taxable property value) that will result in \$8 million over 26 years for the construction of two new fire stations. Amy Dawson, Fiscal Officer, has a strong history of paying off debt early and she anticipates that she will continue to do so with this bond as well. The remainder of funds required to construct the stations will come from the JEDD Fund and existing revenue sources. There is no extra money in this ask and the levy is not "padded." The Trustees are acting in good faith to ensure strong financial health for the future of our Township community.

"Our main priority is the safety of our citizens and firefighters," said Matt Sabo, O.F.E. Fire Chief. He continued, "This levy is so important for the safety of our community and first responders in that it allows us to take action now. Since our stations were built in the 1960's, and were not built to house a full-time fire department nor do they have the decontamination zones necessary, the need is urgent for these new stations. New, up-to-code fire stations will improve response times making our community safer while keeping our first responders healthy and safe from carcinogens. Retrieving equipment stored in other buildings currently slows response time. These old buildings do not have enough space to properly store or care for our current township equipment."

"We would like the community to understand that the Township DOES NOT have the funds available to construct Station 2 now, contrary to some misleading information we are seeing from opposition. We currently have \$2.5 million cash on hand for this project," stated Amy Dawson, Fiscal Officer. She continued, "As



we stated at the past two Trustee meetings, we would have to save funds for Station 2, which would significantly delay the project. Taking on short-term debt for Station 2 would further delay the construction of Station 1, likely resulting in higher costs for our residents. Much like building a home, you must first demonstrate that you have the finances available before you get construction bids. That is where we are with this project. If the levy passes, we will have the funds available to move forward with the competitive bidding process. If it does not, we will have to wait until we save enough funds, which could take years and ultimately cost our residents more and force our first responders to remain in current unsafe and unhealthy conditions.”

The new revised station designs are sized appropriately to meet both the needs of today and the future. Concord Township held several stakeholder meetings open to the community to receive feedback on these designs. Designs were revised and streamlined based on feedback from numerous residents to ensure good value without sacrificing necessary elements. These plans, along with other fire station related information, are available on the Concord Township website at <https://concordtwp.com/departments/fire/new-fire-station-project/>. Please contact our trustees, fiscal officer, fire chief or administrator (listed at left) with any questions regarding the bond issue.

About Concord Twp. Fire Department

In 1948, a small group of Concord residents raised \$925.00 to establish the Concord Fire Department. Today, Concord Twp. Fire Department serves its community of over 18,000 people in over 22 square miles. The Department of 18 full-time firefighter/paramedics including 6 Lieutenants and 26 part-time firefighters responded to over 2,600 incidents in 2018 with an average response time of six minutes and thirty seconds. For more information, please visit at our website <https://concordtwp.com/departments/fire/> or follow us on Facebook @concordtwpfd and Twitter @ConcordFire13