



# City of Canal Fulton

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## *From the Office of the City Manager*

### **Recommendations to Proceed with the Northwest Fire District Draft**

- I. Governance Board
  - A. The Board would consist of five members, two appointed by the City Mayor and/or City Council, two appointed by the Township Trustees, and one elected by the four City and Township appointees.
  - B. At least one City Council person and/or Mayor and at least one Township Trustee shall serve on the Board.
  - C. Refer to Ohio Revised Code Section 505.371 for the creation of and activities conducted by the Board.
  - D. The Board would negotiate, develop, and administer the contract with the North Lawrence Fire Dept.
  
- II. Funding
  - A. The Northwest Fire District would be funded through a district wide property tax.
  - B. The four existing Township fire levies would be consolidated to the one Northwest Fire District levy for the same (effective) millage amount or other amount determined by the Fire District Board to be approved by ballot vote.
  - C. The City would also need to vote on this same millage rate.
  - D. Upon passage of the levy the City would consider reducing the city income tax by 0.2%, as this is the approximate amount of income tax currently funding the Fire Dept. according to the Finance Dept.
  - E. This would be a five year renewable levy.
  
- III. Fire Station
  - A. The City would lease the Canal Fulton Fire Station to the Northwest Fire District for \$1 per year for as long as the City is a member of the Fire District.

- B. The City Fire Station will become the Northwest Fire Station for as long as the City is a member of the Northwest Fire District.
- C. Use of the Fire Station would be under the total control of the Northwest Fire District.
- D. Maintenance of and improvements to the Fire Station would be the responsibility of the Fire District.
- E. Spaces currently shared by the City Police Dept. will remain shared facilities.
- F. Consideration should be given to the Township Police Dept. for the sharing of some or all of these same shared facilities.
- G. The City would maintain ownership of the Fire Station.
- H. The Northwest Fire District would be given the option to assume ownership of the Fire Station through a purchase agreement with the City.

#### IV. Staffing

- A. All staff currently working for the City and Township fire departments will become employees of the Northwest Fire District.
- B. The Fire District Board will hire a full time fire chief.
- C. The District Fire Chief will be given the responsibility to maintain a part-time work force.
- D. Should issues with staffing such as collective bargaining force the Fire District into unsustainable or deficit spending the Fire District shall be dissolved due to inadequate funding.
- E. Service for positions such as Clerk and Law Director can be provided by the City and Township to eliminate a duplication of services and to promote collaboration between the City, Township, and Fire District through a Council of Governments Agreement or other type of agreement.

#### V. Equipment

- A. All equipment previously owned by the City and Township fire departments would become the property of the Fire District.
- B. If the Fire District dissolves for any reason the apportionment of equipment, funds, debt, etc. shall be conducted according to the provisions in ORC Section 505.371(D)