

New Carlisle Town Council

Meeting at the Monroe's Crossing, 7038 N. Chicago Road, New Carlisle, Indiana

Public Hearing, March 13, 2022, 2:00 PM

President Rush called the meeting to order with Vice President Kauffman, Council Member Doll, Council Member Colanese and the Clerk-Treasurer present. Council Member Budreau was absent.

Also in attendance: Andrea Halpin, Susan Cowan of Baker Tilly, the Olive Township Advisory Board and Trustee, Hudson Township Advisory Board and Trustee, six members of the public, five members of the NCFD.

Fire Chief Josh Schweizer briefly explained how we got to where we are today with staffing. Originally they intended to have four staff for engine and two for ambulance on each shift per NFPA staffing requirements but were restrained by budget and currently have two on ambulance and three on engine. He reviewed 2019, 2020 and 2021 staffing. He reported that they hired three people in 2022 due to w/c issues and the recent loss of two full shifts due to Covid. They may need to add a sixth position for each shift this year with his recommendation to the Executive Board.

Chief Schweizer asked if there were any questions.

Council Member Doll asked if Indiana is an NFPA state and Josh replied no. He asked if they have experienced any shortages and Josh replied yes. Council Member Doll asked if Chief could give any examples and he responded that they recently had an accident on SR 2 and then a fire alarm at the Shredder and had no volunteer response.

Council Member Doll asked if the 972 calls listed in the Annual Report includes one call or two when both a truck and the ambulance respond and Chief Schweizer answered that it one call. Council Member Doll asked what a "good intention" call would be and Chief Schweizer responded that it is a call they answer when someone has no other person to call for assistance. Council Member Doll asked where our ladder truck is and Chief Schweizer answered if referring to the last call, it was being worked on at the time of the call.

Trustee Will Miller opened the floor to questions. Council Member Doll asked if the cost for overtime and part-time was available. Overtime last year was \$71,400 and part-time was \$157,207.

Territory Attorney, Peter Agostino introduced Susan Cowan of Baker Tilly.

The floor was turned over to Susan Cowen of Baker Tilly to review and explain the financial implications of forming the three entity fire territory. Ms. Cowen shared a power point presentation and had copies available for all. She reviewed the proposed budget, funding sources, implications for property, local income and vehicle taxes as well as circuit breaker for each entity individually. She explained that budget increase is capped by levy growth for a fundable budget. The DLGF has set the AVGQ between 1 ½% and 4.2% in recent years and the budget can increase by that as well.

There were no comments or questions for Ms. Cowan. There were no public comments and no additional Fire Territory questions.

Upon a motion by Council Member Colanese and second by Council Member Doll the Public Hearing adjourned at 3:16 PM.

Samantha Rush, Council President

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer