



PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

FIRE DISTRICT # 1

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INSPECTION BUREAU

PRESS RELEASE

Date: February 15, 2017

From: Chairmen David Gindlesperger

RE: Annual Fire District Election

The annual Plumsted Township Fire District election is fast approaching. The Plumsted Township Board of Fire Commissioners #1 was formed with the purpose to oversee fire protection services to Plumsted Township. In 2004, an emergency services study determined the need for career personnel to supplement the volunteers during the day. Over the years, in conjunction with the increased need for services, additional daytime personnel have been added. This allows the New Egypt Fire Company volunteer personnel to be supplemented by career personnel Monday through Friday, 6 AM to 5 PM. There was also become a need of New Egypt First Aid Squad volunteer personnel to be supplemented. In January of 2009, the Board of Fire Commissioners welcomed the career staff employed by Plumsted Township to operate under the board as career personnel. EMS staff and services are funded through the district fire tax and allow response to your emergencies 24 hours a day/7 days a weeks. The board also added in January 2009, Plumsted Township's own Office of the Fire Marshal. In total the Board of Commissioners employs 13 full time career staff while still overseeing and funding the volunteer operations of the New Egypt Fire Company. In 2016, the need for fire services was 425 emergency calls and the need for EMS services was 1554 emergency calls. All call statistics, as well as meeting minutes and past budgets can be viewed on the Board's website at www.plumstedtownshipfiredistrict.com. This website has been developed in compliance with the requirements of enacted law A3908.

This year the Board is asking voters to approve a budget of \$2,060,382.00 with the amount to be raised by taxation of \$1,649,242.00. This is an 0.005 increase from the 2016 budget and is well below the 2% state mandated cap. The 2017 budget shows an increase of \$50,678.00 which is in most part due to the leasing of a remounted ambulance instead of purchasing a new ambulance at a cost savings of over \$100,000.00. The average homeowner in Plumsted Township assessed at \$240,000 would pay an approximate increase of \$12.96/year for fire and emergency services in 2017. The average cost per homeowner is \$1.38/day for fire and emergency services. A copy of the 2017 budget sheet is available. This year the Board must also fill one 3 year term. Ken Hagen is running unopposed for that term.

The annual budget election will be held Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 2-9 PM at the New Egypt Firehouse. All registered voters are eligible to vote in this election. Please come out and show your support. If you have any further questions or need further information, please contact Chairmen David Gindlesperger (609) 743-0593 or Chief Rick Bryne (609) 758-2350.