



PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #1

2023 Referendum to Exceed the
State Imposed 2% Tax Cap

PURPOSE OF THE FIRE DISTRICT

- Plumsted Township Fire District #1 is a governmental body that is separate from the Township of Plumsted that oversees:
 - Fire Protection
 - Fire Inspection Services
 - Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Five elected officials, known as the board of fire commissioners, are responsible for assisting the volunteer fire department and financial oversight of the career Fire and EMS staffing

THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

- Chairman Robert Brady
- Secretary Ken Friedrich
- Treasurer Ken Hagen
- Commissioner Kent Amburgey
- Commissioner John Gaskill

WHO DO WE SERVE?

All of Plumsted Township

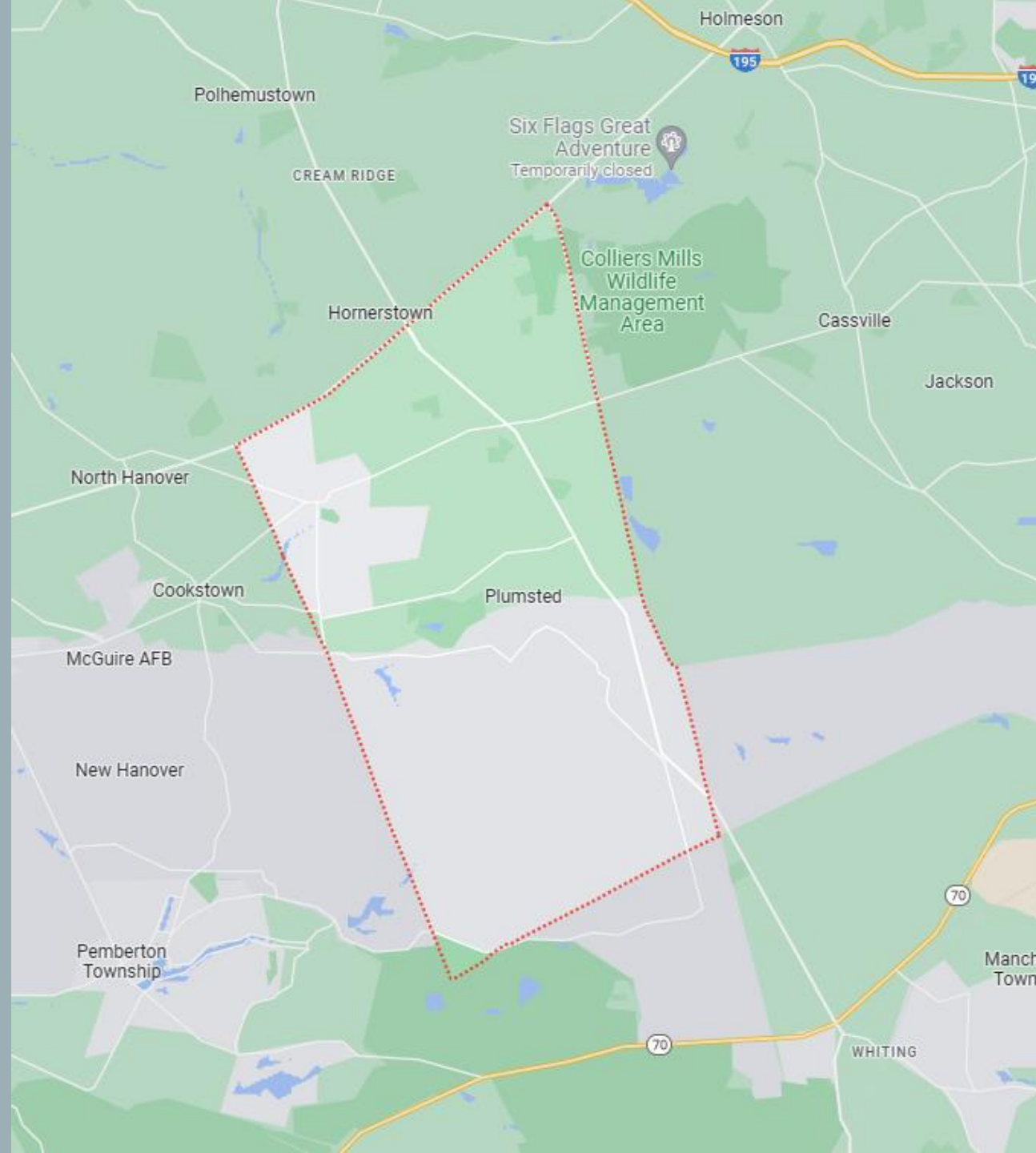
Approximately 9,000 residents

Approximately 40 square miles

2022 Call Volume:

EMS: 1000

Fire: 600



LOCATIONS

STATION 39

Plumsted Township Fire District #1
New Egypt Fire Company

59 Main Street
New Egypt, NJ 08533

SQUAD 30

Plumsted Township Fire District #1
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

32 Brynmore Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

CURRENT SERVICES PROVIDED

FIRE SERVICES

- Paid staff Monday-Friday 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 - Supplemented by volunteer personnel
- Structural, Wildland & Utility Fire Suppression
- Vehicle Rescue and Road Safety
- Utility Emergencies
 - Fire Protection Systems
 - Odor Investigations/ Hazardous Materials
- Fire Safety Inspections
- Public Education and Outreach
- Provide Mutual Aid Assistance to Neighboring Towns

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

- Paid Staff 24 hours per day/ 7 days a week/ 365 days of the year, including all holidays
- Respond to all 911 Emergencies
 - Medical Emergencies
 - Motor Vehicle Incidents
 - Fire Emergencies
- Assess patients, determine proper treatment, and transport to an appropriate facility
- Standby at athletic events and social events within the township
- Public Education and Outreach
- Provide Mutual Aid Assistance to Neighboring Towns

CURRENT FLEET

FIRE SERVICES

- 3902: 2006 Pierce Saber Rescue
- 3909: 2012 Ford F-350 Brush Truck
- 3911: 1998 Pierce Saber Engine
 - 1000 Gallon
- 3915: 2001 Pierce Quantum 75' Ladder
- 3918: 2001 International/KME Tanker
 - 3000 Gallon

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- 304: 2019 Ford Van
 - Type II Ambulance
- 306: 2019 Ford E-450
 - Type III Ambulance
- 307: 2018 Ford 4x4
 - Type I Ambulance

PURPOSE OF A REFERENDUM

- In 2010, Governor Christie signed a 2% property tax levy cap pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-45.45 et seq.
 - Requires municipalities to not increase their operating budget by more than 2% from the previous year
 - Taxes beyond the cap can be raised with a simple majority vote by referendum.
- The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 have identified the need to exceed the 2% tax cap for a multitude of reasons and have authorized a special election to approve the increase.
- As established per state laws, this election will be held on Saturday, February 18th during normal state-wide fire district elections
 - In the past few years the fire district has elected to move elections to November for better exposure to our voters; however, this type of referendum requires a February vote

WHY NOW?

- We have used our unrestricted fund balance over the last several years to prevent a significant increase in tax rate
 - This fund is normally used for capital purchases, anything over \$10,000.00
- Costs on ALL levels over the past few years have experienced a sharp increase
- A decrease in manpower has lead to an increase in overtime spending
- Supply Chain Issues

WHAT WILL THIS PROVIDE?

- Allows for the continuation of 24/7/365 EMS coverage for Plumsted Township under the fire district
- Ensures proper staffing levels are in place for operational functions
 - Decrease overtime costs
- Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment
- Training
- Rebuild Unrestricted Fund Balance to make critical anticipated expenses without taxing residents

CRITICAL ANTICIPATED EXPENSES

- Radios
 - Replacement needed to remain compliant with Ocean County upgrade to 700 MHz
 - 11 Mobile Radios x \$6,000 Each = \$66,000
- Air Packs
 - 24 air packs, bottles, and masks
 - Estimated at \$375,000.00 Total
- Turnout gear
- Upgrades to aging fire apparatus

TURNOUT GEAR

In compliance with NFPA, gear needs to be replaced every 10 years regardless of wear and tear

In the last two years, the prices of gear have increased 20%



APPARATUS UPGRADES

Fire apparatus typically has a 25 year life span

For example:

- Tanker 3918
- Built in 2001
- 3000 gallon International/KME
- New estimated at \$785,000.00



2023 REFERENDUM – THE NUMBERS

- We are seeking funding in the amount of \$251,950.00 exceeding our current cap limit.
- 16.22% tax increase
- Tax rate increase of .043 per \$100 of assessed value
 - 2022 actual fire tax rate 0.264
 - 2023 proposed fire tax rate 0.307
 - $0.307 - 0.264 = 0.043$ tax rate increase

COST TO THE AVERAGE TAXPAYER

- The average house in Plumsted Township is assessed at \$281,705.00
- Yes vote will result in a fire tax increase of \$121.00
- No vote will result in a fire tax increase of \$30.00
- The Cost to Keep EMS = \$121.00 - \$30.00 = \$91.00 increase
- $\$91.00 / 365 \text{ days} = \0.25 per day
 - This increase allows for the fire district to continue providing EMS
24 hours/7 days a week/365 days a year

Plumsted Township Fire District #1

2023 Proposed Budget

		2023	2022	Increase	
		<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>(Decrease)</u>	
Amount to be raised by taxation		\$ 2,410,491	\$ 2,069,268	\$ 341,223	16.49%
Township assessed value		\$ 784,530,200	\$ 782,700,600	\$ 1,829,600	0.23%
Tax rate		0.307	0.264	0.043	16.22%
House assessed at	250,000	\$ 768	\$ 661	\$ 107	16.22%
House assessed at	350,000	\$ 1,075	\$ 925	\$ 150	16.22%
House assessed at	450,000	\$ 1,383	\$ 1,190	\$ 193	16.22%
Average house assessment	281,705	\$ 866	\$ 745	\$ 121	16.22%

BENEFITS FOR THE TAXPAYER

Emergency Medical Services will continue to be provided by Plumsted Township Fire District #1 allowing for:

- EMS 24 hours per day, 7 days a week
- Quick and reliable response times
- Consistent and dependable staff to provide definitive care
- Personable experience
- Acceptance of insurance payments as FULL payment for care and transport
 - No balance billing for residents



HOW DO WE COMPARE?

2022 AVERAGE EMS RESPONSE TIMES:

- Plumsted Township Fire District #1: 6.6 minutes
- Ocean County, NJ: 15.9 minutes
- State of New Jersey: 15.5 minutes

In the event of an emergency, time makes a difference!

IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS

- Due to a lack of funding, the Plumsted Township Fire District would no longer be able to provide EMS
- The responsibility to provide EMS to residents would fall to Plumsted Township
 - This would likely result in a third party company providing EMS services
 - Significantly higher cost to the taxpayer
 - Patients will likely be balance billed, responsible for what insurance does not cover
- You may have to wait up to 45 minutes for a mutual aid ambulance to respond, if not longer

VOTING

Saturday, February 18, 2023

2:00 PM – 9:00 PM

New Egypt Fire Company

59 Main Street, New Egypt, NJ 08533

HELP US CONTINUE TO HELP YOU!