

COLUMBIA FIRE LEVY ISSUE #8

1.0 mill Replacement Levy with 0.06 mill increase

When seconds count, we've been there. We will continue to be there, but we need your help. We need your support this March 17, 2020 with the passage of our **1.0 mill replacement operational levy with a 0.06 mill increase** for your fire department and emergency medical services.

Columbia Township Fire Department has 35 members consisting of 21 Paramedics, 2 Advance EMTs, and 12 Basic EMTs. The department also has 2 members on the Lorain County Hazmat (Hazardous Material) Team, 3 members on the Lorain County Dive Team, 3 members on the Lorain County Fire Investigation Team, and 1 member on the Lorain County Bomb Team. All members train weekly in fire, rescue, and EMS areas. Your fire station is equipped with two rescue squads, a 2006 Horton and a 2019 Horton. There are two fire engines, a 1997 Sutphen and 2014 Sutphen, also a 1992 International 3500-gallon water tanker and a 2012 Ford multi-purpose vehicle.

Your department responded to 929 emergencies last year. Your fire station is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with part time personnel. This means our response time from the station to your home is approximately 5 minutes.

What does this mean to you and your neighbors? Here are a few facts from the American Heart Association and National Fire Protection Association to consider.

1. During cardiac arrest, brain death and permanent death start to occur in just 4-6 minutes. Cardiac arrest can be reversed within a few minutes with electrical shock to the heart, also referred to as defibrillation. Chances of survival are reduced by 7-10% every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation. Little chance of survival is expected after 10 minutes without these interventions.
2. A structure fire doubles in size every minute. The likelihood someone will die in a fire is almost 10 times greater when it spreads beyond the room in which it started, which takes about 10 minutes.
3. How fast can a typical fire consume a home? From start to the first 5 minutes, 15% of a home can be destroyed; 8-10 minutes can destroy up to 50% of the home, and a fire burning for more than 16 minutes can destroy 100% of the home.

This levy replacement, with the 0.06 mill increase factored in, will cost homeowners \$37.10 per \$100,000 of property valuation each year for 5 years. The funding from this levy will generate approximately \$271,150 per year for the operation of your fire department. This levy will support our staffing, Worker's Compensation, insurance, utilities, and training. This levy will also support the purchase of needed medical equipment for the rescue squads, tools, firefighting clothing, additional needed equipment, and replacement of emergency vehicles. We are always striving to improve and make Columbia a safer community.

We thank you for your support in the past years and are looking for your continued support on this **replacement levy Issue #8** on March 17, 2020.

Chief Raymond Anthony and the members of Columbia Fire Department