

Main Points for the November 2020 ballot issues

- Both levies are a 2-year levy.
 - If the levy for your district is passed you will be taxed for years 2020 and 2021.
 - The money will be collected in 2021 and 2022.
- The 2017 1 mil levy was left to expire since it did not allow for the different needs of KVFD and EWJFD. The 1 mil levy was assessed on your 2019 property taxes which were paid this year. There will not be any overlap of the 1 mil levy and the levies being presented on the ballot.
- The names state they are “fire districts”. A township can only use the name of “fire district” to raise funds using levies. KVFD can not place a levy on the ballot as they are a private fire company. EWJFD can not place a levy in the unincorporated area of the township since Sugar Creek Township is not a member of EWJFD.
 - Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire district.
 - Sugar Creek Township will contract with EWJFD to provide coverage for this area. The boundary has not changed from years past and it reflects having the nearest fire department responding to that area.
 - Sugar Creek Township has not created a new fire department. A fire district is the only avenue the township has available per ORC to levy money for contracting with a fire department.
 - The Wayne County auditor’s certification of a 2.9 mil levy would raise \$125,000.
 - Southern Sugar Creek Township Fire District.
 - Sugar Creek Township will contract with KVFD and OFD to provide coverage for this area. The boundary has not changed from years past and it reflects having the nearest fire department responding to that area.
 - Sugar Creek Township has not created a new fire department. A fire district is the only avenue the township has available per ORC to levy money for contracting with a fire department.
 - The Wayne County auditor’s certification of a 1.5 mil levy would raise \$106,000.
- Each fire district is separate from the other districts. Northern Sugar Creek Fire District residents will not have any influence on the Southern Sugar Creek Township Fire District or vice versa.
- Not all of the money will go to EWJFD. There are some fees that the township is charged by the county for the collection of the taxes. A vast majority of the funds will go to EWJFD to provide services to township residents.
- Not all of the money will go to KVFD. There are some fees that the township is charged by the county for the collection of the taxes. Also, the township contracts with the City of Orrville on a paid per call format. Some money will be held back to pay for OFD responses until the end of the year. Once the new year happens the remainder can be paid to KVFD.
- Questions concerning how the fire departments will spend their funds should be directed to each department.
 - Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District should go to EWJFD.
 - Southern Sugar Creek Township Fire District for KVFD response area should be answered by KVFD.
 - Southern Sugar Creek Township Fire District for OFD response area should be answered by township trustees as the township contracts on a per-call format.

Here is a timeline of the meetings and some of the key points of discussion or decisions. For complete information please listen to the audio recording of the meetings.

- May 6, 2020
 - Attended by EWJFD, and KVFD.
 - Trustee Gregory reported on a Community Strategic Vision Committee meeting he attended.
 - A group of people gathered that represented different government entities, fire departments, and community members.
 - The main topic discussed was the fire department funding.
 - The board along with, EWJFD, and KVFD discussed some of the key points that the Community Strategic Vision Committee discussed
 - Separate tax districts.
 - This means tax dollars stay with the community that they are raised from.
 - This allows for different levy amounts to address different needs.
 - A Village of Dalton council member was present and they were asked to report to the council our discussion.
 - For the OFD response area, the City of Orrville would be asked to either have their own district or be a part of the KVFD district since they are primarily a volunteer department.
- May 12, 2020
 - Mayor Finley was in attendance and had also attended the Community Strategic Vision Committee. He agrees with the separate tax districts and feels the committee was unified in two districts.
 - Trustee Hofstetter moved to approve resolution 2020-05-12-02 to create to fire districts defined by the 911 GIS map.
- May 28, 2020
 - EWJFD, KVFD, and Mayor Finley were in attendance.
 - KVFD had not finished a final budget yet.
 - EWJFD discussed the potential name, the amount needed, and time frame for the levy with the board.
 - There was a discussion on placing the northern portion of the township back into the district, but at this time there is not enough support. It is felt that it would be better for the township to place the levy on the ballot.
 - Decisions at the end of the discussion.
 - Trustee Widmer moved to have Trustee Hofstetter to request from the county auditor the following.
 - A 1.5 mil levy for KVFD or southern fire district.
 - A 2.9 mil levy for EWJFD or northern fire district.
 - Trustee Widmer moved to have Trustee Hofstetter provide information to the WCPO the boards desire to place a 2-year levy on the ballot.
- June 9, 2020
 - Trustee Gregory reported that KVFD had a meeting and are seeking \$100,000 in funding.
 - The Wayne County Auditor had questions on how to divide the split and was waiting for answers from the state-level agency.

- Detailed maps were reviewed showing the divide for the two fire districts.
- Trustee Hofstetter made a motion to approve the tentative township divide as supported by the maps and uploading the maps to the Matrix. Trustee Widmer seconded and motion carried.
- July 8, 2020
 - KVFD was present.
 - The board discussed the boundaries with KVFD.
 - Trustee Hofstetter moved forward with resolutions for KVFD and EWJFD boundaries. Trustee Widmer seconded both resolutions and both resolutions were unanimous yes.
 - Trustee Widmer made a motion to place the motions on our website. Trustee Hofstetter seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- July 14, 2020
 - Information was presented to the board from the Wayne County Prosecutors office.
 - KVFD or Southern fire district would generate \$106,000 with a 1.5 mil levy.
 - EWJFD or Northern fire district would generate \$251,000 with a 2.9 mil levy.
 - To allow all parties time to review a July 20, 2020 meeting was established to finalize.
- July 20, 2020
 - All parties had a chance to review the information.
 - The board moved forward with resolutions to place on the ballot a levy for the Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District. It would be a 2-year levy, include the Village of Dalton, and request 2.9 mils which would generate approximately \$251,000. The resolutions were passed with unanimous yes votes.
 - The board moved forward with resolutions to place on the ballot a levy for the Southern Sugar Creek Township Fire District. It would be a 2-year levy and request 1.5 mils which would generate approximately \$106,000. The resolutions were passed with unanimous yes votes.
- August 1, 2020
 - At the Wayne County Board of Elections, they raised the concern of the State Board of Elections approving the Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District including the Village of Dalton. The explanation was a fire district already existed in the Village of Dalton, Wayne County Board of Elections felt the State Board of Elections would reject the Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District as it stood. A solution would be to redo the resolutions and exclude the Village of Dalton. EWJFD would place a fire levy for the Villages and Sugar Creek Township would only cover the unincorporated area.
 - The August 1, 2020 meeting was called for to either stay the course or to change only the Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District.
 - Trustee Hofstetter moved to approve a resolution to rescind the previous Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District. Trustee Gregory seconded and it was a unanimous yes vote.
 - Trustee Hofstetter moved to approve the Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District excluding the Village of Dalton. Trustee Widmer seconded the motion and it was a unanimous yes vote.
 - Trustee Hofstetter moved to approve a resolution declaring the necessity of levying in the excess of the ten-mil limitation for the benefit of the Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District. Tom Gregory seconded the motion and it was a unanimous yes vote.
 - Trustee Hofstetter moved to approve a resolution declaring it necessary to proceed with the levy of a tax in the excess of the ten-mil limitation for the benefit of the Northern Sugar Creek Township Fire District. Trustee Gregory seconded. Trustee Hofstetter and

Trustee Gregory said yes. Trustee Widmer said no. The motion carried and it will be placed in front of the voters to decide.

- EWJFD or Northern fire district would generate \$125,000 with a 2.9 mil levy as certified by the Wayne County Auditor. The lowering of the amount reflects the Northern Sugar Creek Fire District excluding the Village of Dalton.
- Oct 13, 2020
 - Discussions on replacement contracts began.
 - The board agreed that a majority of the current contracts did not need to be replaced.
 - The board wanted to change the term "Response district" to identify the current fire districts that have been established.
 - The amount to be paid will need to reflect the levies if passed.
 - The Fire prevention officer (FPO) for each district will need to change to reflect the districts.
 - EWJFD was present to begin a dialogue. The representative will take back the board's suggestions for review.
 - A point of contact was established for legal review from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.