

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2016

**EAST WAYNE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT COURT CASE AGAINST SUGAR CREEK
TOWNSHIP, WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO**

Sugar Creek Township, Wayne County, Ohio – A case against the Board of Township Trustees of Sugar Creek Township, Wayne County, Ohio (the “Board” and the “Township,” respectively) was filed by the East Wayne Joint Fire District in Wayne County Common Pleas Court on June 29, 2016. The complaint in the case seeks a determination by the Wayne County Common Pleas Court that a contract purportedly entered into between the East Wayne Joint Fire District and the Township is valid and enforceable, despite the Board’s vote to rescind the agreement on April 11, 2016. The contract requires the Township to continue to use and pay for the services of the East Wayne Joint Fire District for five years even after the Township withdraws from the East Wayne Joint Fire District.

As the defendant in the case, the Township filed its answer to the complaint on August 22, 2016. The Township completely disagrees with the claims made in the East Wayne Joint Fire District’s complaint. Ohio law permits a member of a joint fire district to leave the district. It is the Township’s position that, by binding the Township in the contract, the contract seeks to circumvent Ohio law by effectively taking away the Township’s ability to leave the joint fire district, and forcibly binding the Township regarding its options and obligations. The Township believes that it is unfortunate that this matter has come to the point of a lawsuit, and looks forward to the Wayne County Common Pleas Court ruling in favor of the Township and Board.