

Woodburn - New Haven Fire & EMS Protection Territory

In a joint effort the Woodburn Fire Department and New Haven Adams Township Fire & EMS department are working on a Fire Protection Territory. This territory will serve the Citizens and Businesses of Adams, Jefferson, Maumee and Milan Townships along with the City of New Haven and City of Woodburn. Woodburn and New Haven Fire Departments have worked closely for many years together. This effort by the 2 departments is to join forces due to the increased call volume and the lack of manpower/ volunteers both are facing. The days of a full volunteer fire department are gone and the need for paid Firefighters and Paramedics to be at the station ready to respond is increasing.

Volunteers are still the major backbone of the fire service. The lack of volunteers though, is the reason of needing full-time personnel. The yearly sacrifices a volunteer firefighter and or EMT/ Paramedic make is tough for someone with a family and full-time job. The requirements the state puts on EMT and paramedics to keep up with a valid certification every year is hard to find volunteers to do it for "Free". EMT's and Paramedics get their certification and end up finding a full-time job to help with recertifications and get paid for the time and schooling they put into it.

The Townships max tax levies were set decades ago for strong volunteer departments that had manpower and the time to put in the work it required. Since then, price for equipment, the yearly requirements from the state and the call volume have doubled if not tripled. The tax levies that were put in place are too low for volunteer fire departments to survive. The state has set up a way for these entities to raise their max tax levy with a one-time increase. The way for them to do it is to go in with 2 or more joining townships and or cities to create a Fire Protection Territory. This process consists of coming up with a needed budget, doing a tax impact analysis, have 3 public hearings on the proposed tax increase and all the entities board members and or city council members to vote and pass identical resolutions and inter-local agreements. The 6 entities above have come up with a reasonable Budget to gain the needed paid manpower in these areas and have completed a tax impact analysis. The next step for the area is to have the public hearings. These hearing will be held on the following dates, time and locations.

- 1st meeting
 - January 21, 2021 at 7p.m. at the Woodburn Missionary Church located at 5108 Bull Rapids Rd, Woodburn, IN 46797
- 2nd Meeting
 - February 8, 2021 at 7p.m. at the Woodlan High School located at 17215 Woodburn Rd, Woodburn, IN 46797
- 3rd and Final Meeting
 - March 1, 2021 at 7p.m. at The Orchid Events and Catering located at 11508 Lincoln Hwy East, New Haven, IN 46774

All 3 meetings will observe COVID requirements and have online video participation as needed.

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For more info about this process please keep an eye on both Woodburn Fire and New Haven Fire & EMS Facebook pages also at www.cityofwoodburn.org and www.newhaven.in.gov .

Also You can get ahold of both the Woodburn Fire Department at 260-632-3021 and New Haven Adams Township Fire & EMS at 260-493-7500

Township Trustee Info

- Adams Township
 - Denita Washington
 - Office 260-493-2590
- Jefferson Township
 - Lynn Rorick—contact information can be found at <http://allencounty.us/government/community/allen-county-township-trustees>
- Maumee Township
 - Vicki Thompson
 - Office 260-632-9977
- Milan Township
 - Chad MacDowell—contact information can be found at <http://allencounty.us/government/community/allen-county-township-trustees>

City Info

- City of Woodburn
 - Mayor Joe Kelsey
 - Office 260-632-5318
- City of New Haven
 - Mayor Steve McMichael
 - Office 260-748-7070