

**MT. HEALTHY CITY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
WITH NORTH COLLEGE HILL REGARDING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
January 15, 2019**

The council meeting was called to order by President of Council Ross Bittner at 7:00pm. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mt Healthy Council: Mrs. Lingo, Mrs. Moody, Mr. Parsons, Ms. Petersen, Mr. Roetting, Mrs. Dosa

North College Hill Council: Mary Jo Zorb, Mary Dewald, Amber Bailey, Ornita Brown, Tracy Nichols

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

City Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Bill Kocher, North College Hill Mayor Maureen Mason, City Administrator Sheryl Long, Mt. Healthy Fire Chief Steve Lawson, North College Hill Fire Chief Brian Fels, North College Hill Law Director Bill Deters

DISCUSSION OF MEETING

The two councils will be reviewing the "Draft" copy of a resolution for the creation and operation of The North College Hill/Mt. Healthy Joint Fire and Rescue District.

North College Hill's Law Director, Bill Deters put the draft resolution together for review this evening.

Let's walk through the document and go over questions as they come.

- When this joint fire district is created it becomes its own political subdivision. They will have the ability to make their own decisions.
- A board would need to be created. Both councils agreed to have a 7 member board. 2 Mayors, 1 elected official from each city, 1 resident from each city, and 1 person the board would select. They will have 2 year terms, without term limits.
- We have to use the first operating year as 2019 if we are going to go for the SAFE grant.
- Compensation shall only be paid for meetings, which are attended by the Board members. All Board of Trustees members shall be paid at the maximum amount permitted under Ohio Law, not to exceed the maximum number of meetings annually per year.

- Meetings would best be held at both cities, maybe going back and forth between the two. Meetings are made public and meet the requirements of the Sunshine Law. Try to work together to get word out for the meetings.
- The Board of Trustees would hire the Fire Chief.
- The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Clerk/Fiscal Officer who shall be the chief clerical and fiscal officer of the joint fire district. The salary will be set by the Board. This is usually a part time salary position. This person would be in charge of payroll. They also do all the things a Clerk of Council would do.
- The idea of funding this is a grant, a levy, and each city would contribute \$10,000 to the Fire District for start-up costs. This is just a number each city administrator came up with at this time. The amounts contributed would be refunded to both cities upon the successful passage of the Fire District Levy. If the levy fails this money will not be refunded.
- The fire district will make at least 3 attempts ^{beginning} no later than the August special election ²⁰¹⁹ ~~2021~~ to pass a Joint Fire District Levy. The millage of the initial levy shall be determined by the Board of Trustees of at least 13mills but not to exceed 14mills.
- Both fire stations would be leased for \$1.00 for the real estate. A legal document would be drawn up.
- Would there be a need to buy equipment in the beginning? There is equipment that would need to be purchased down the road. The oldest engine is 1987. The first couple of years we would be able to sustain with what each department has. There are grants out there to help with the purchase of equipment.
- Fire personnel will include one Fire Chief. The initial intent ^{was} for all personnel employed by Mt. Healthy and North College Hill and ^{are} in good standings and have their certifications up to date would be employed by the joint fire district as part-time. As a part-timer you will be on the roster, but may not get a shift. The goal is to have mostly a full time staff. The fire district's union contracts would no longer be viable and would have to negotiate a new contract. Both cities are represented by AFSCME.
- You have to look at the Board of Trustees as their own political subdivision. Mt. Healthy and North College Hill officials will be on the board, but the city hats need to come off and the focus will then be for the good of the joint fire district.
- This resolution will need to be passed and Board of Trustees put together by March 1, 2019. A motion can appoint the people to the board.

A motion was made by Mr. Roetting to create the new joint fire district being named Hilltop Joint Fire & Rescue District. A second motion was made by Ms. Bailey. A roll call vote carried the motion 8-2.

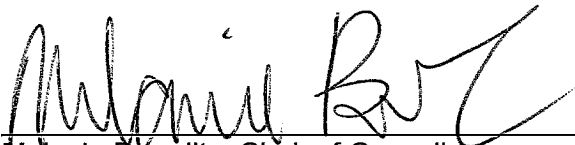
HILLTOP JOINT FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Dewald and seconded by Ms. Bailey. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.



President of Council Ross Bittner



Melanie Branditz, Clerk of Council