



Keep Saybrook Safe!

An Overview of Your Fire Department & Issue 28

Records indicate that annual responses have increased 284% (almost tripled), without an increase in tax millage. The current funding model of 7.5 mil has been in place since 1986. Taxes generate \$1.4 million annually, and ambulance billing generates an additional \$200,000 in revenue.

To provide better service for increases in call volume, it was decided in 2014 to staff Fire Station #2 on Carpenter Rd., as a means to protect the northern section of Saybrook Township better since increased rail traffic often blocks response routes. The building has neither living space nor sewers, so Saybrook Township rents a house at 5036 Lake Rd. for on-duty personnel to use as living quarters. When a call is received, personnel assigned to Fire Station #2 walk through the backyard of the property, cross Carpenter Rd., and enter the fire station to respond to the emergency.

Today, the Saybrook Township Fire Department consists of six career personnel and 18 part-time personnel, including the Fire Chief.

This past year, the Saybrook Township Fire Department completed a Strategic Plan. The development of this plan represented a 360-degree evaluation by key stakeholders and decision makers, including, but not limited to, elected officials, business owners, community residents, and emergency services providers including dispatchers and fire department personnel.



CURRENT STATION 2

Nationally, rural communities are struggling to recruit and retain firefighters and paramedics; Saybrook Township is no exception. Problems with recruitment and retention of part-time personnel have resulted in staffing shortages and periodic closures of Fire Station #2. There has been a steady decline in qualified candidates coming into the field due to increased education requirements, cross training of both Fire and EMS, as well as the hazards the field brings.

Facing shortages of part-time firefighter/paramedics, the Township has no option but to hire additional full-time firefighter/paramedics to accompany the part-time personnel. Without an adequate staff of both full and part-time firefighter/paramedics, the department has been forced to 'brownout' a station (temporary closure), thereby hindering service to the community. Brownouts have resulted in closing a fire station 30% of the year.


**✓ YES ON
ISSUE 28**

How much will it cost?

The levy will generate approximately \$550,000 per year. A homeowner would pay approximately 33 cents a day or \$10 per month for every \$100,000 of home value. Those with a Homestead Exemption would pay approximately \$7.50 per month.

Proposed Cost Figures for Each Mil (3.5 Mil – Requested) Continuing Fire Safety & EMS Services Levy

\$0.35 per 100 dollars of tax valuation

HOME VALUE	ASSESSED VALUE (35% of Home Value)	PROPOSED ANNUAL COST	PROPOSED MONTHLY COST	PROPOSED WEEKLY COST	PROPOSED DAILY COST
\$50,000	\$17,500	\$61.25	\$5.10	\$1.18	\$0.17
\$75,000	\$26,000	\$91.00	\$7.58	\$1.75	\$0.25
\$100,000	\$35,000	\$122.50	\$10.21	\$2.36	\$0.34
\$200,000	\$70,000	\$245.00	\$20.45	\$4.71	\$0.67
\$225,000	\$78,500	\$275.63	\$22.97	\$5.30	\$0.76
\$250,000	\$87,500	\$306.25	\$25.52	\$5.89	\$0.84
\$300,000	\$105,000	\$367.50	\$38.63	\$7.07	\$1.01
AVERAGE HOME VALUE AT \$130,000 (\$159.25 / YEAR)					

What will happen if the Fire/EMS levy passes?

Voter passage of the 3.5 mil continuous fire levy will allow the hiring of 3 additional full-time firefighter/paramedics capable of performing advance life support emergencies as well as all fire-related incidents. Additionally, it will provide a competitive wage and incentive package to attract and retain additional part-time personnel. The new hires will yield fully staffed fire stations and ultimately a substantial reduction in the frequency of 'brownouts.' Additionally, it will allow us to build a new station in the northern district, eliminating the monthly rental payment and expanding our apparatus bays to allow space for the fire trucks and ambulances used today. Also, water rescue capabilities will be moved closer to Lake Erie and be kept inside the new station.

The addition of full-time staff and newer equipment will benefit the entire township with improved response times and arriving with adequate personnel to handle the incidents.

What would happen if the Fire/EMS levy failed?

The high probability of Station 2 closing or more frequent 'brownouts' due to decreased staffing, as well as longer response times from Station 1 to the location of a 911 call.