

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of the Deer Park Silverton Joint Fire District
Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Held at 7050 Blue Ash Road, Silverton Ohio 45236
May 13, 2025
4:34 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Trustees

Frank Maupin

Don Kincaid

Steve Imhoff

William Jetter

Mark Feldhaus Absent

Fred Gunnels

Britt Born

Jack Cameron Absent

Also Present

Dennis Meador - Fire Chief

Belinda C. Joerger Clerk Treasurer

The meeting focused on the necessity of leveling taxes and the implementation of two different types of levies. The board discussed the pros and cons of a 3.5 mill levy versus a 3 mill levy, ultimately deciding to pass the 3.5 mill levy. The 3.5 mill levy would bring in approximately \$1.14 million annually, adding to the current 6.4 and 1.5 mill levies. Concerns were raised about the timing of other levies, particularly a school levy, and the potential impact on voter approval. The board also considered the need for public education to ensure voters understand the importance of the levy.

Action Items

- Reach out to the Deer Park school district superintendent to discuss coordination of tax levy efforts.
- Certify the 3.5 mill levy resolution (2025-04a) through the county auditor.
- Work with the county auditor to get the appropriate legislation prepared for the June meeting.

Outline

Roll Call and Meeting Purpose

- Steve Imhoff leads the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for a deputy who passed away.
- Belinda Joerger conducts the roll call, confirming the attendance of Britt Born, Don Kincaid, Steve Imhoff, William Jetter, Frank Maupin, and Fred Gunnels.
- William Jetter made a motion to excuse Jack Cameron and Mark Feldhaus from the May 13, 2025, Special Meeting, seconded by Fred Gunnels, all members present voted aye, motion passed.
- The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the necessity of levying taxes and the implementation of different types of levies.

Discussion on Levy Types

- Chief Meador explains the difference between replacement levies and additional levies, recommending against relying on state actions.
- The 6.4 mill levy passed in 2003 and the 1.5 mill levy passed in 2013 are mentioned, with a recommendation to consider a 3.0 and a 3.5 mill levy.
- Alan Abes drafted two resolutions, labeled A and B, for the board to consider.
- The board can decide to pass both resolutions, pass one resolution and table the other, or not pass anything at all.

Projections and Financial Considerations

- Chief Meador discusses the financial projections, including the impact of inflation and healthcare costs, and the need for a cushion.
- The 3.5 mill levy is projected to provide a stable income for the next seven years, with a fallback option if the November levy fails.
- The process of certifying the resolutions and getting them on the ballot by August 6 is outlined.
- The 3.5 mill levy would result in a total of 11.4 mills, with the effective rate being less due to revenue caps on previous levies.

Challenges and Public Education

- Chief Meador highlights the challenges of low voter turnout in May elections and the need for better communication.
- Britt Born, William Jetter and Steve Imhoff commented that they support the 3.5 mill levy, emphasizing the importance of having a cushion to avoid frequent returns to the voters.
- The need for public education to inform voters about levy and its importance is discussed.
- Britt Born suggests that primary elections are more likely to pass special levies than general elections.

Impact of Other Levies

- The potential impact of other levies, such as a school board levy and a road levy, is discussed.
- Chief Meador mentions that the school board is considering a levy, which could affect voter sentiment.
- The board discusses the strategic timing of the levy to avoid competing with other levies on the same ballot.

Final Decision and Next Steps

- The board votes to table resolution 2025-04b and pass resolution 2025-04a.
- Chief Meador will get the certified resolution through the county and prepare the appropriate legislation for the June meeting.
- The board discusses the possibility of reaching out to the school board for further discussions.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to pass the resolution and a second, followed by a roll call vote.

- **Public comment – none**

Consideration of Legislation –

Clerk Joerger read by title only –

RESOLUTION NO 2025-04 A

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING A TAX OUTSIDE THE TEN MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY CERTAIN MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

A roll call vote was taken, all present voted aye, motion carried.

**Don Kincaid made a motion, seconded by Britt Born to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 pm, all
present voted aye, motion passed**

