

September 10, 2024

From the Desk of Your Fire Chief,

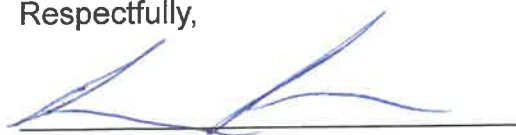
Hello Fellow Islanders, I certainly hope you all have had an enjoyable summer, I know I have. I'm reaching out to each and every one of you regarding **YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT** and an upcoming Ballot Issue that will affect each and every one of us.

On November 5 during the General Election, **YOUR** Fire Department has placed on the ballot a **REPLACEMENT TAX LEVY** for Fire Protection on Kelleys Island, **Issue 14**. Funds raised from this issue are earmarked for only Fire Department Operations and will not be used for any other Village Expenses. The previous Tax Levy approved in 2005 received overwhelming support from you, and I thank you for that. Unfortunately, we have reached a point where the current Fire Department expenses are exceeding the revenue generated by our existing levy, and this is why I'm asking for your support. As with all of us, inflation has taken its toll, and you're Fire Department is no exception. Routine items such as Diesel Fuel, Fire Hose, Communication Equipment, and so forth have increased greatly, thus placing a tremendous strain on our budget. Our Fire Apparatus is aging, with our two primary Fire Engines being 23 and 40 years in age, thus presenting a possible reliability issue in the event of a fire. That being said, I'm pleased to report that your Fire Department has been fiscally responsible with managing your funds since our last Tax Levy in 2005. Since then, we have accomplished many goals with purchases such as a 2000 Gallon Tanker, Radios, Vehicle Extrication Equipment, Fire Hose, Rescue Classes, etc....

So, you ask, what will this Replacement Levy cost me and what will it be used for? This Levy will cost the average Kelleys Island Homeowner approximately \$35 for every \$100,000 in property valuation, or about \$14 per month. As for what will it be used for, it will allow us to continue to provide a level of service that not only meets our current demands, but demands into the future. As you have noticed, the island is growing rapidly, thus presenting various challenges for your Fire Department. We will begin to set aside money for the future purchase of a Fire Engine, Breathing Apparatus, replacement of aging fire hose, additional training of personnel, etc. This is just a few examples of our future goals and I firmly believe you should be aware of what this funding will be used for.

In closing, **I'M ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON ISSUE 14**. Like many of you, I dislike taxes, but for your Fire Department to provide a service that you expect and deserve, were requesting necessary funding. If any of you have questions, feel free to email me at [rskeans@gmail.com](mailto:rskeans@gmail.com). Either I will get back with you or a member of my Officer Staff will.

Respectfully,



Robert Skeans – Fire Chief