

 **Please SUPPORT Issue #19**

* Issue 19 is a 1.25 mill increase for the Fire Department budget. It will generate an additional $173,297 for operating expenses. We have not asked for any new money from you since 2008.
* For every $50,000 of property valuation that you have, the addition cost would be $1.82 per month. If your home value is $150,000 the cost would be $5.47 per month.
* Our payroll has increased from $254,312 in 2007 to $395,396 in 2014. That is a 55% increase! This is due to increasing the time and number of personnel that staff our fire station, to provide a rapid response to your call for help! We have tried to staff with 3 people, but have had to cut an overnight shift due to our $80,000 budget deficit for this year. We really need your support for this levy to restore our staffing levels. This is for your safety as well as ours. For a fire event, we will respond with the three staffed personnel in the fire truck and the tanker. This enables us to get equipment deployed in about 5 minutes. It will take around an additional 7 to 10 minutes for the tanker to arrive without the third person.
* Ten years ago, in 2005, our paramedic/firefighters were making $10.00 per hour. We had 26 members on the roster, 19 of them residents. Today in 2015, paramedic/firefighters are making $13.92. We have 32 members on the roster, with only 7 residents. The Fire Chief is the only full time person. All other fire department personnel are classified as part time or volunteer.
* It takes financial resources to be proactive in the delivery of our Emergency Medical Services. Since 2012, we have invested $306,000 to better serve you. We purchased a new ambulance in 2012, new and updated heart monitors and power loading ambulance cots in 2013, and two LUCAS CPR devices in 2014. We were one of the first fire departments in Portage County to utilize this new CPR technology, and there are two residents that have directly benefited from this acquisition.
* The new building is NOT costing us any more money than we originally planned. In fact our utility costs (electric and natural gas) have dropped from $22,000 in 2007 to $18,800 in 2014. This is due to the building being so energy efficient and it has insulation in it.
* I ask that you get all of the FACTS concerning this levy. I am inviting you to attend a Community Information Meeting on either Tuesday Oct. 20th or Wednesday Oct. 28th at 7:00 p.m. to hear in depth our need for this levy. Lori Calcei, Suffield Twp. Fiscal Officer, will also be in attendance to directly answer financial questions. This meeting will be held in the Community Room at the Fire Station.

Sincerely,

**Paid for by Support Suffield Fire**

**John Yeargin, Treasurer**

**261 Ridge Rd, Mogadore Ohio**

Robert Rasnick

Robert Rasnick, Fire Chief