

## Hamilton Township Board

### Public Hearing #1 for Fire Contract Special Assessment

Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Hamilton Township Hall, 3042 N. Rodgers, Harrison, MI  
Board Members Present: Mike Conway, Mike Iutzi, Dave Wright, Mickie Duby, Valdine Erskine Residents: 27 Staff: 4  
**CALLED TO ORDER:** by Wright at 6:30 P.M, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

This meeting was called to review Notice #1 for the proposed Fire Contract Special Assessment. No other business was discussed.

Erskine reviewed a white board chart of 10 years of payments to the City of Harrison for the fire contract, showing the cost of fire service nearly doubled in 10 years. She explained the township has always paid for fire service without collecting a tax. With funds being slowly depleted, the township is seeking a Special Assessment to help cover the costs. Exhibit A, the tax roll, and Exhibits B and C, preliminary estimate of cost of the service were also reviewed. Erskine explained the township is NOT seeking to build a fire hall or purchase fire equipment. The assessment is solely to continue paying the City of Harrison. The township is seeking \$35 per parcel, per year to be collected on the winter tax bill. The special assessment will be reviewed annually by the Supervisor and will expire in 5 years. At that time the township would need to seek a renewal or other means of collecting funds.

David Wright Jr presented his independent detailed research, showing the fire department is underfunded as compared to surrounding fire departments. He further stated the expectation that costs for fire service would continue to increase to more closely align with other townships. Discussion and questions by residents were asked and answered.

Erskine circulated a tablet, requesting that those who opposed the Special Assessment record their name, address, phone number, and reason for opposition. It was noted that 3 letters of opposition were received via postal mail. Undeliverable mail was counted as opposition for the purpose of calculating the 10% opposition. No one opposed the special assessment during the meeting.

**ADJOURNED:** Conway made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m., supported by Iutzi; all in favor. **MC**