

**TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES ANNOUNCES A
NEW LEVY ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023 BALLOT FOR EMS SERVICES**

TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF TWIN TOWNSHIP:

The Twin Township Trustees have voted to place a new tax issue on the ballot for the general election to be held November 7, 2023. The issue will be for 1.5 mills and the purpose of the funds raised will be to provide Emergency Medical Services for Twin Township residents, guests, and those traveling throughout the township, if and when the need for emergency services arise.

In the past, these services have been provided by the Twin Township EMS Department manned by community volunteers who met the state required certifications to serve as Emergency Medical Services providers. Due to several factors, it became increasingly difficult to retain the number of volunteers necessary to provide these services to our residents. For over the past 24 to 36 months, Twin Township has relied on mutual aid from neighboring townships to help with these services. The need for that help became so frequent that, in 2022, the neighboring townships began charging us for each emergency run they made on our behalf.

In 2022, the Twin Township EMS department made only 5% of the emergency runs dispatched by the Ross County Sheriff's office. As a result, Twin Township suspended EMS operations effective February, 2023, and contracted with neighboring townships to provide these services as "first responder" to our residents at a cost of \$350 per transport or \$250 if an emergency run was made but the patient was not transported to the hospital. This is the same rate the neighboring townships were charging us for mutual aid runs, but now, as "first responders", they were able to be dispatched quicker to emergencies.

Payment for these services over the past 2 years have been made from funds made available to the township from the American Rescue Plan Act from the federal government. These funds will be exhausted by the end of 2023. In order to continue to provide emergency services beyond that time to the residents of Twin Township, additional funds are necessary.

The Ross County Auditor has certified that 1.5 mills raised by the proposed tax levy would generate \$124,000 annually. It would cost a property owner \$52.50 annually for every \$100,000 of appraised value of his/her property. It is estimated that these funds will allow emergency services to continue for the residents of Twin Township using the current contracting method.

The other option that was considered by the Trustees was to request funds necessary to operate a paid EMS department for Twin Township. This would require at least 7 or 8 mills of new tax dollars. Twin Township historically has about 360 emergency medical runs per year, or about one per day. This low volume of runs would make it very costly for the township to operate their own paid EMS department.

It is important to note that the state of Ohio requires local fire protection, of which Twin Township still provides with local volunteer firefighters, and will continue to do so. However, the state does not mandate local EMS services. **Therefore, if the 1.5 mill levy is not approved by the voters, the current method of contracting EMS services will be difficult to continue, and, with the lack of volunteer EMT's, emergency medical services for Twin Township may not be possible.**

If you have questions about this issue, please contact one of your township trustees listed below.

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