

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing today to tell you about how the funds you are voting on would help our township with the replacement of the damaged fire station.

Since July 6, 2022, Goshen Township Fire and EMS has not missed a beat providing service to the citizens of Goshen Township. This has not come without vast sacrifices. Currently, we have units set up in a temporary fire station comprised of a single wide mobile home set next to an old service garage with 3 pieces of apparatus inside. This garage is a shared space with our service department, which has had to leave their equipment set outside in the elements so that ours can set inside. This reduction in space has led to 3 pieces of fire apparatus having nowhere to be stored. We have been able to use 1 bay of the damaged building to store the apparatus but even this has been less than ideal. Due to the building not having heat, the cold temperatures over the winter caused damage to the fire engine that cost several thousand dollars to repair, which will likely have to be repeated each year until our building is repaired or replaced.

Another concern is an increase in response times throughout the district. The damaged station is located directly on State Route 28, which is the main thoroughfare through Goshen and allows units to quickly transverse the district. The temporary station, while located just around the corner from the damaged station, sits back in town a few streets, and requires extra time to get to the main thoroughfare. Another cause of slowed response times is due to the fact that employees have to exit the mobile home, then enter a different building to get to the apparatus. Due to safety concerns requiring coded locks, this takes extra time that would not be needed if the 2 buildings were connected.

Another major issue with our temporary station setup is the lack of ability to separate our personal protective equipment from exhaust fumes. With current cancer legislation becoming so prevalent, current NFPA standards require us to have our personal protective equipment in a separate room, sealed from exhaust fumes. In our current setup, due to space constraints, the exhaust from our apparatus exits the vehicle, aimed directly at our gear storage, pumping our protective ensemble full of hydrocarbons from the exhaust.

A lot of these problems are just challenges that we as an organization will have to face while we find the means to fund the repair or replacement of our damaged station. As it stands, we are looking at a time period of 2 to 3 years for either option. This timeframe has been made longer while we attempt to find the means to fund the project without asking more from our citizens. Numerous citizens have already voiced their concerns with the possibility of a tax levy to fund the project, due to the rising cost of living coupled with increased property taxes due to property value increases this year. Funding from you would most certainly speed this process up as we could make a definitive decision on which route to go and begin the process. Likewise, funding from you would lessen the burden on our citizens and allow them to rest easy knowing their fire department is being taken care of, the way their fire department takes care of them.

Thank you for considering funding our station repair/replacement, and thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Sean Felock  
Lieutenant  
Goshen Township Fire and EMS