

Administration
(513) 722-3400

Planning / Zoning
(513) 722-3400

Service / Cemetery
(513) 722-3400



Police
(513) 722-3200

Fire / E.M.S.
(513) 722-3500

October 3, 2023

Good morning honorable representatives, thank you for the opportunity to address you today as a proponent of House Bill 244.

My name is Bob Rose and I am the Chief of Police in Goshen Township. In addition to chief, I also serve as the township administrator.

On July 6, 2022 at 3:08pm an EF2 tornado dropped out of the sky without warning and our Station 18 Fire Department and nearby Police Department took a direct hit. The tornado would go on to damage and destroy 298 homes and structures but mercifully spared lives.

Seconds before touchdown, it was just another work day. There wasn't even a tornado watch in effect. As the tornado warning came out, township personnel looked out the window to see the tornado on the ground. Administrative staff made it half way down the stairs as windows exploded.

Officers in the police department didn't have time to get to the basement storm shelter either. Instead taking cover in interior rooms and a closet.

Firefighter-medics at Station 18 took cover in a bathroom as a portion of their firehouse collapsed.

As soon as the twister passed, everyone immediately began responding to an overwhelming number of emergencies. One entrapment after another rang out by dispatchers.

I put out a mutual aid all call on the radio for any available unit to respond and officers, medics, and firefighters came from everywhere, racing to the many different streets and neighborhoods affected.

Several hours into the disaster, once everyone was confirmed safe, we shifted into recovery mode and within a week all roads were reopened and most electric was restored.

A plan was developed for a temporary firehouse. A mobile home was purchased and that is where we remain today. This was a costly endeavor in itself including the purchase of the mobile home, running utilities, and cutting holes in an old service department pole barn to park a

fire truck and ambulance. We used insurance to fund this project, but ultimately those expenses were subtracted from the final settlement.

To determine if the firehouse was even salvageable or not would prove to be time consuming and costly, requiring engineers and architects to prepare professional stamped drawings. Ultimately, we would arrive at a place where, like many who have been in a severe car crash, the car is not quite but nearly totaled.

Throughout this process, Chief Myers was very vocal about the wrecked station 18 not providing sufficient protections for his staff including its failure to meet any of today's codes as it applies to cancer causing hydrocarbons. While he preached the importance of these codes, they were easily overlooked because our 41-year-old building is grandfathered.

Then, just as the Board of Trustees were to take a vote on how to proceed, Chief Myers concerns were brought to the forefront. Tragically, a Northern Kentucky firefighter has died of cancer connected to his job. In a sad coincidence, he is to be laid to rest tomorrow with his visitation being held in Goshen Township. God certainly works in mysterious ways. For me, the untimely passing of a firefighter, a hero, from job related cancer and with funeral services to occur in Goshen Township... there was no bigger sign of what to do with the nearly totaled 41-year-old Station 18. Demolish and rebuild for the long-term health and safety of staff. The Board of Trustees wisely chose this direction.

There has been nothing easy about the process to get where we are today. It is a blessing that there was not more widespread damage, but at the same time, since the damage was limited, we do not qualify for FEMA funding.

Our revenue closely matches our expenses. We cannot afford a mortgage. Any consideration to assume a mortgage would come at the expense of public safety in our rapidly growing community wherein we need more resources not fewer.

It's important to note, Goshen Township regularly partners with and provides mutual aid to surrounding communities as well, so the rebuild of Station 18 is much broader than just emergency services for Goshen Township.

On behalf of the residents, schools, and business owners of Goshen Township and beyond, I respectfully ask for your support for HB244. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Rose, Chief of Police & Township Administrator