

Resolution to Establish the Northern Monroe County Fire Protection Territory

WHEREAS, IC 36-8-19 permits two (2) or more participating units of local government to establish a fire protection territory to provide fire protection services to those participating units; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington currently owns certain fire equipment and apparatus; housing for that equipment and apparatus; employs certain fire personnel and contracts with the Benton Township Board and Trustee and Washington Township Board and Trustee to provide fire protection and emergency medical services within Bloomington Township outside the city limits of the City of Bloomington, within Benton Township and within Washington Township; and

WHEREAS, Benton currently has an all-volunteer fire department and does not have the means or tax base necessary to establish and pay for an independent fire department with full-time paid staff; and

WHEREAS, Washington currently does not have any fire department and does not have the means or tax base necessary to establish and pay for an independent fire department; and

WHEREAS, Benton and Washington are contiguous to Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington currently provides fire protection and emergency medical services to Benton and Washington pursuant to contracts between the government entities; and

WHEREAS, the Trustee and Township Board of Bloomington; the Trustee and Township Board of Benton; and the Trustee and Township Board of Washington have determined that it will be in the best interests of the citizens of those units of government to enter into an agreement to form a fire protection territory;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Trustee and Township Board of Bloomington Township, Monroe County, hereby joins together with the Trustee and Township Board of Benton Township, Monroe County and the Trustee and Township Board of Washington Township, Monroe County under the provisions of IC 36-8-19 to establish a fire protection territory.

2. The area constituting the fire protection territory shall include the entire areas of Bloomington Township, Monroe County, Benton Township, Monroe County and Washington

Township, Monroe County, but excluding any part of Bloomington Township that is within the corporate boundaries of the City of Bloomington.

3. The provider unit shall be Bloomington Township, Monroe County.
4. The participating units shall be Bloomington Township, Monroe County, Benton Township, Monroe County and Washington Township, Monroe County.
5. Upon the adoption of this Resolution, the participating units agree that the property tax rates imposed on all taxable property in Bloomington Township, Monroe County, Benton Township, Monroe County and Washington Township, Monroe County for the services provided by the fire protection territory shall be the same.
6. The agreement to establish the fire protection territory shall include the creation of a Fire Protection Territory Fund by Bloomington Township, Monroe County, from which all expenses of operating and maintaining the fire protection services within the territory, including repairs, fees, salaries, depreciation on all depreciable assets, rents supplies, contingencies, and other expenses lawfully incurred within the territory shall be paid. The funds and money in the fund may not be used for any other expense or purpose, including the payment of debt service or lease rentals on obligations issued or entered into to finance buildings or equipment. The money in the fund may be used to repay any advances made by Bloomington Township to the fund or to transfers to the Equipment Replacement Fund.
7. The budget for the Fire Protection Fund shall be approved by the Bloomington Township Board, following review and approval by the Benton Township Board and the Washington Township Board. The budget shall be set in an amount sufficient to meet the expenses of operation and maintenance of fire protection services within the territory and to maintain an appropriate operating reserve. After adoption of the fire protection budget, the participating units shall establish the tax levy required to fund the budget, as estimated by the provider unit, subject only to any applicable property tax levy controls.
8. The agreement shall include the establishment of an Equipment Replacement Fund, to be used to purchase fire protection equipment, including housing. There shall be a separate levy, on all taxable property. The property tax rate for the Equipment Replacement Fund levy may not exceed three and thirty-three hundredths cents (\$0.0333) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed value.
9. The agreement shall also authorize the participating units to do any and all other acts provided under the provisions of IC 36-8-19.
10. All prior resolutions or parts thereof that are inconsistent with any provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.
11. A copy of the Agreement is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

12. This Resolution is hereby adopted at the duly noticed meeting of the Trustee and Township Board of Bloomington Township held this ____ day of _____, 2016

AYE

NAY

ATTEST: _____
Trustee