

VILLAGE OF BOSTON HEIGHTS	Codified?	First Reading _____	Waiver 3-Reading Rule _____
ORDINANCE NO: <u>2016-7-35</u>	Yes _____	Second Reading _____	Yes _____
INTRODUCED BY <u>J. MILLER</u>	No _____	Third Reading _____	No _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TEN YEAR SHARED SERVICES ARRANGEMENT WITH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT FOR FIRE, EMS, AND RELATED SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, one of the primary obligations and responsibilities of the Village Council is the safety and protection of the Village of Boston Heights residents; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to a 2013 Shared Services Agreement, Equipment Lease, and Fire Station Lease (hereinafter the “2013 Shared Services Arrangement”), the Valley Fire District has for the past several years, successfully provided fire, emergency medical, dispatch and related services to the Village of Boston Heights on a twenty-four (24) hour, seven (7) days a week basis with: (1) both part-time and full time professional staffing, including paramedics and fire inspectors; (2) the opportunity for greater trained firefighters; (3) the full time placement of an ambulance at the Village Fire Station; (4) improved response times for first-responders and ambulances; and, (5) ongoing employment for the current members of the Volunteer Village Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, due to the success of the existing arrangement, the Valley Fire District and the Village of Boston Heights have both mutually expressed an interest in continuing the shared services relationship with respect to the provision of fire, medical emergency, dispatch and related services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Boston Heights, Summit County, Ohio as follows:

Section 1: That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the Valley Fire District, which agreement shall be substantively the same as Exhibit “A,” with the final form to approved by the Solicitor. The agreement shall have an effective date of October 1, 2016.

Section 2: That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a Village Equipment Lease Agreement with the Valley Fire District, which agreement shall be substantively the same as Exhibit “B,” with the final form to approved by the Solicitor. The agreement shall also have an effective date of October 1, 2016.

Section 3: That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a Village Fire Station Lease Agreement with the Valley Fire District, which agreement shall be substantively the same as Exhibit “C,” with the final form to approved by the Solicitor. The agreement shall also have an effective date of October 1, 2016.

Section 4: That the subject Shared Services Agreement, the Village Equipment Lease Agreement, and the Village Fire Station Lease Agreement (referred to hereinafter as “the Shared Services Arrangement” and attached hereto) are being entered pursuant to Ohio law, including but not limited to Ohio Revised Code 9.482, and the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Boston Heights.

Section 5: That the Mayor and Village Fiscal Officer are hereby authorized and directed to carry out all related actions in order to implement the Shared Services Arrangement and the terms of this Resolution.

Section 6: That the funds necessary for the fulfillment of the subject Shared Services Agreement.

Section 7: That this Council hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council which resulted in formal action were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with the applicable legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 8: That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and welfare of the community for the reasons set forth below and elsewhere in this Resolution, and the Recitals which are incorporated herein, and to otherwise comply with the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. Further, and to this end, the Village of Boston Heights Council finds as follows:

- A. Due to budgetary and other constraints, the Village cannot itself staff the Village Fire Station on a twenty-four (24) hour, seven (7) days a week basis. Prior to the 2013 Shared Services Arrangement, the “volunteer” Village Fire Department had struggled with staffing and other service related matters.
- B. Everyday challenges to volunteer fire departments around the state and the country continue to grow. According to the National Fire Protection Association, the number of volunteer firefighters across the country is declining. Even the Boston Heights Fire Department active roster had decreased dramatically. The “volunteer” Village Fire Department typically had only one or two members within the geographical boundaries or within a five (5) mile radius of the Village able to respond during business hours. There is no reason to believe those circumstances have changed at this time.
- C. The National Fire Protection Association establishes an advanced life support travel response time goal of eight (8) minutes, yet historically the response time for ambulances to certain locations within the Village had exceeded eight (8) minutes. With the 2013 Shared Services Arrangement, those times have improved, and with the subject Shared Services Agreement, they will be maintained.

- D. The Village of Boston Heights Codified Ordinances require fire inspections to be made on a yearly basis and the “volunteer” Village Fire Department had undergone some challenges in this regard during the last few years, before the 2013 Shared Services Arrangement was entered.
- E. The Valley Fire District has put forth a Shared Services proposal that will provide fire safety, fire inspections, hydrant testing and flushing, emergency fire and medical, maintenance and dispatch services to the Village of Boston Heights on a twenty-four (24) hour, seven (7) days a week basis with full time professional staffing, including paramedics and fire inspectors, the opportunity for improved and better training for firefighters serving the Village, and the full time placement of an ambulance at the Village Fire Station.
- F. Under the Shared Services Arrangement, the Village will continue to be served by a full-time, 24-hour, seven day a week professional department. Valley’s current roster also includes several residents of Boston Heights, including Valley’s Fire Chief, which shall also preserve the improved response times for non-scheduled firefighters responding to calls from within the Village.
- G. Under the Shared Services Arrangement, the first-responder times within the Village will not change. It is contemplated that first-responders will be stationed and staffed at the Village Fire Station for a minimum of one shift with an expectation of two or more, eight hour shifts on a regular basis. For those first-responders there will be no travel time to the Village Fire Station, which was the case before the 2013 Shared Services Arrangement, therefore reducing the overall response times on calls throughout the Village.
- H. Further, with the placement of an ambulance at the Village Fire Station on a twenty-four (24) hour, seven (7) days a week basis within the Village and with responders coming directly from that station during the Village’s anticipated high call volume period, ambulance travel response times to locations throughout the Village have improved by close to half of the prior response time and will continue to be improved over such times prior to the 2013 Shared Services Arrangement.
- I. Further, under the Shared Services Arrangement, the citizens of Boston Heights will have paramedics scheduled on each shift. A paramedic will always be on the schedule and able to respond.
- J. Further, the Shared Services Arrangement eliminates the Village’s ongoing challenges with regard to fire hydrant testing and flushing, which will immediately improve safety and welfare of the Village.
- K. Further, the Shared Services Arrangement will improve the community’s ability to secure grants for equipment, training and materials, which will maintain and improve the overall safety of the Village.

- L. One of the primary obligations and responsibilities of the Village Council is the safety and protection of Boston Heights' residents. As a result of the Shared Services Arrangement, in total, the safety of the Village's residents will continue to improve. Failure to do so would result in an immediate return to an unsatisfactory, lower level of safety and security that existed prior to the 2013 Shared Services Arrangement.

As such, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and execution.

PASSED:


BILL GONCY, Mayor

ATTEST:

I, BETTY KLINGENBERG, Fiscal Officer and Clerk of the Council for the Village of Boston Heights, Summit County, Ohio do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution **2016-7-35** was duly passed by the Council of the Village of Boston Heights, Summit County, Ohio at a meeting of Council on the **27th day of September, 2016.**


BETTY KLINGENBERG, Fiscal Officer