



INDIAN CREEK FIRE FIGHTERS, INC.



Board of Directors:
Rich Hansen, President
Patrick Munson, Vice President
Dee Owens, Secretary
Brad Swain, Treasurer
Shawn Harris
Beverly Himes
Sarah Jones
Lisa Prince
Byron Reinhold

8019 South Rockport Road
Bloomington, IN 47403
Phone: 812-824-6202

Doug Thompson, Fire Chief

January 30, 2007

Linda F. Hollingsworth
Trustee
Indian Creek Township

Dear Trustee Hollingsworth and members of the Township Board:

Greetings! A new year, a new Board, and an invigorated Fire Department are more proud than ever to be providing service to the residents of Indian Creek Township! As you are aware, the Fire Department was just awarded a \$28,000 grant for the purchase of equipment. We will use this award (a testament to the Fire Fighters' dedication) to significantly improve the services we provide, without costing the Township any more money. It is with this renewed sense of determination that the Board feels it must respond to your proposed "Supplement to Contract".

To say the least, the Board as a whole was taken by surprise by the Supplement presented at the annual meeting. While the Board will always share your concerns regarding the best service possible, we are not in a position to sign the Supplement that was presented. Quite frankly, we feel that the existing contract adequately governs the relationship of the parties. Moreover, some of the assertions in the Supplement dealt with events in the past and are not relevant to our future relationship.

We would also like to specifically address certain proposals that were advanced in the Supplement that would materially change the existing relationship between the parties. The first would be the timing of any notice of termination of the contract. The Board feels that 30 days is not an appropriate notice to either side. We have employees to which we owe more than 30 days notice, and we think it would be reprehensible for the Fire Department to give the Trustee such short notice to make alternative fire protection arrangements. A 30-day notice would only benefit someone who has already begun making arrangements, leaving the other party at a distinct disadvantage.

The Board is also of the opinion that a modification of the lease agreement is not necessary. As you are aware, the Fire Department leases only the land upon which the station is situated; however, the buildings and fire-fighting equipment are the sole possession of the Fire Department. Even in the unlikely and unfortunate event of a termination of the contract by either

side, the Fire Department would remain in possession of the building and equipment and would seek to enforce the terms of the current lease, which expires in 2013.

Regarding the schedule of payments, the Board cannot agree to a reorganization of payments. As we are sure you can well imagine, expenses fluctuate with repairs and other capital improvements, and that is why the payments are structured the way they are.

While on the subject of payments, we would like to remind you that the payment due at the annual meeting was not presented. While we are sure that the omission was simply an oversight, we hope you will contact our treasurer as soon as possible to return to compliance with the existing contract.

The final point we would like to address is communications. Any member of the Board is available and willing to talk with you, although as unpaid volunteers it is difficult to predict availability. Most of us have one or more full-time jobs. Furthermore, no one board member can or should act unilaterally. We urge you to contact any member of the Board or the Fire Chief at any time to address any immediate concerns you may have or have your questions placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Board realizes that you, as do we, have only the best interests of the community at heart. While we remain committed to serve the Indian Creek community, it is apparent that there are issues that you believe need to be addressed. The Board hopes that we can address these issues in a non-antagonistic, non-threatening, face-to-face setting; we will always be willing to meet with you and your Board at any mutually agreeable time.

Every member of the Board looks forward to working with the Township for many years to come, and wish everyone a productive and safe new year!

Richard Hansen
President, Indian Creek Fire Fighters

Patrick Munson
Vice President, Indian Creek Fire Fighters