

## **ADVISORY REFERENDUM INFORMATION** for **Brussels, Union, Gardner Fire Station Projects**

The Towns of Brussels, Union, and Gardner are placing an advisory referendum on their April 5, 2016 election ballot which requests authorization to *CONSTRUCT A NEW SOUTH BRUSSELS, UNION, GARDNER FIRE/EMS STATION and TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING NORTH BRUSSELS, UNION, GARDNER FIRE STATION*. The cost for both projects is not to exceed the sum of **\$2,800,000**. This funding will enable the Brussels, Union, Gardner Fire Department to construct a new Fire/EMS South Station and to construct an addition to the existing North Brussels, Union, Gardner Station.

### **How will this referendum be different from the 2015 referendum?**

- \* The biggest concern in the last referendum was the cost and scope of the project at **\$4,285,000**. We listened to those concerns and have worked to reduce the cost.
- \* As a result, a **cost savings of \$1,485,000** has been realized by making changes to this construction project.
- \* There have been some reductions in size to the South Station in Brussels.
- \* At the North Station, the project scope has been broken down into two phases:
  - **North Station Phase 1** includes an addition of two truck bays, fire hose tower drying area, turnout gear locker area, equipment storage and maintenance area, truck ventilation system, and parking lot improvements.
  - **North Station Phase 2** is viewed as a *future* project to the Phase 1 addition and would include the meeting/training/kitchenette area, new male/female restrooms, a utility room, and office space for firefighters and EMR/EMS personnel. It would be worked through the normal channels with the Fire Board at that time (approximately 5 years).

### **What is the purpose of this building project for our Fire Department?**

- \* This project will help to ensure we can continue with the services of fire and first responder protection by investing in the firefighters' and first responders' health, safety, training, and education by providing facilities supportive of their needs.
- \* The 48-year old South Fire Station and the 27-year old North Fire Station would be provided with adequate housing of fire trucks offering a safer ingress/egress from the fire bays during emergencies. The project would allow for the installation of a truck ventilation system providing a cleaner environment. The project would also allow for an indoor training/meeting room, office space, kitchenette/lobby area, and separate restroom facilities at the South and North Stations (North Station Phase 2--see above). Work area improvements at both locations include a hose drying tower, maintenance work area, turnout gear locker area, and equipment storage.
- \* There is a growing concern and need for **recruitment and retention of our volunteer firefighters and first responders**. Having to travel out of the area for training is becoming a greater burden to our firefighters due to required state-mandated training. Not having facilities that provide an area to conduct training or to do maintenance of equipment adds to those concerns.

**What is the total cost for each project and how is that assessed for each township?**

- \* The **total estimate for both projects is not to exceed \$2,800,000.**
- \* The **budget estimate for Brussels, Union, Gardner South Fire Station is \$2,200,000.**
- \* The **budget estimate for Brussels, Union, Gardner North Fire Station is \$ 600,000.**

Principal	Interest	Total
\$2,800,000.00	\$1,112,458.02	\$3,912,458.02

*Based on the 2015 equalized valuations, the breakdown for each town is:*

	Valuation	Par Allocation	Interest	Total	%
<b>Brussels</b>	\$ 81,526,100.00	\$ 514,206.00	\$ 204,121.29	\$ <b>718,327.29</b>	<b>18.36%</b>
<b>Union</b>	\$ 146,816,200.00	\$ 926,010.00	\$ 367,839.86	\$ <b>1,293,849.86</b>	<b>33.07%</b>
<b>Gardner</b>	\$ 215,589,000.00	\$ 1,359,778.00	\$ 540,111.61	\$ <b>1,899,889.61</b>	<b>48.56%</b>

**At the current interest rate of 3.50% this equates to an approximate additional increase of \$44.00 per \$100,000 of assessed property value (current fire protection is \$41.26 per \$100,000 of assessed value). This would be an approximate total of \$85.26 per \$100,000 of assessed value for the next 20 years.**

**Is the Door County EMS/Ambulance Station included in this project?**

Yes, the County of Door has endorsed the concept of a South Ambulance Station being co-located with, or integral to, the South Fire Station in Brussels if the referendum passes.

This cost for the EMS/Ambulance portion of the South Fire Station will be paid through Door County taxes.

*There were several stipulations that needed to be met for the County to consider being part of this project:*

- 1) The location needed to be situated along CTH C and near STH 57 in the town of Brussels.
- 2) There is a *sunset clause* in County Resolution 2014-48 that endorses a two-year life span of the resolution. That resolution or sunset clause ends on May 27, 2016.
- 3) An intergovernmental agreement needs to be endorsed by all concerned parties involved with this project.

**What type of Referendum is this? When will it be? When would construction begin?**

- \* The *referendum is advisory only*. The town electors need to approve the construction project at their annual town or special town meeting per *Wis. Statute 60.10(2)(f) Town Buildings*.
- \* The advisory referendum will be on the ballot at the *April 5, 2016 spring election*.
- \* If passed by all three townships, construction would begin *after the bidding process is completed and contractors are assigned to the project*.