

Attention Registered Voters

YOUR fire and EMS system is in Jeopardy

- Southeast Public Safety Authority (SEPSA) owns and operates your Fire and EMS department.
- Porter Fire and EMS (emergency medical service) has been underfunded for the last 15+ years. Funds are no longer available to meet the constantly rising costs.
- We are the ONLY EMS department in Cass County without dedicated funding.
- We are operating 14-27 year old vehicles that do not meet statutory requirements, are worn out and in generally poor condition.
- Volunteerism is declining, and morale is difficult to maintain in a community where the Fire Department is not supported.
- The Township Boards are unable to fund Emergency Services due to continued cutbacks in State Revenue Sharing.
- There are NO laws in the State of Michigan that REQUIRE the Townships to provide Fire and EMS service.
- A Fire Tanker costs @ \$206,000, and Engine (pumper) @ \$260,000, and an Ambulance @ \$140,000.
- It costs over \$2,500 to equip 1 firefighter with required equipment; this equipment has an average life of 3-5 years.
- The SEPSA provides Emergency Medical Service (via Porter and Newberg EMS) to the residents of Porter and Mason Township.
- Fire and EMS millage will cost the average resident less that \$100/year.

Loss of funding will

- Cause continued degradation of the service, eventually (likely within 1 year) to the point the service will be discontinued, including the loss of Emergency Medical Service.
- Cause an increase in Property Fire Insurance Premiums, between \$150 and \$497.
- Cause Porter Township to default on the contract with Newberg Township, disrupting service to North Porter.
- Force the Township boards to initiate a “Special Assessment” (involuntary tax) on its residents in order to fund Fire and EMS.
- Place funding of Fire and EMS directly in the hands of each Township Board.
- Cost the community in Property Protection, Life Safety, and Environmental Protection (the fire department responds to and enforces Hazardous Materials clean up, enforced 27 cleanups in 2006)
- Cause an INCREASE in the LOSS of LIFE.
- Discourage new residents, and businesses from locating in the area.

SENIOR CITIZENS

- Seniors are 45-60% of our EMS runs.
- Seniors who Qualify for MI Homestead Credit may receive the entire Millage amount in their Income Tax refund* creating a “Service for **FREE**”.

No one wants to pay more taxes! Including the SEPSA board, however Fire and EMS services cannot be continued without Dedicated Funding.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE WORTH?

BENEFITS of MILLAGE FUNDING

- Stability in Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- 24/7 staffing of EMS service
- **Decreased response times (up to 15 minutes saving in response time)**
- Protection of our Environmental Resources
- Increased property protection
- Replacement of worn out and unsafe equipment
- **More Lives Saved**
- Safer community for residents and businesses
- Savings in Property Insurance Premiums
- Possible Storm Warning Siren Systems
- Comprehensive planning for future protection

YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU! EVERY VOTE IS IMPORTANT

- Friends of SEPSA will have FREE transportation available to and from the Polls on election day. (call 641-7100)
- You may vote Absentee if you will be unable to vote Aug. 7th.

VOTE YES, August 7th.

Please pass this on to every registered voter in your household read it and consider carefully before making a decision.

For MORE information feel free to contact Porter Fire at 269.641.7100 or see <http://ptfd.org>. We will hold an informational public meeting on August 4th 2007, 4-7 pm at Porter fire Station. We will happy to address your questions and concerns at that time.