



# Monroe Fire Protection District

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April 10, 2021

Dear Citizens of the Fire District,

Many of you have received your 2021 tax bills and may have noticed the increase in the “special” tax category. The intent of this letter is to clarify the aspects of your tax bill that are related to the increase levied by the Monroe Fire Protection District.

For those who resided within the District prior to January 1, 2021, you are experiencing an increase in taxes for three distinctive reasons;

First, the impact from the equalization of fire tax rates amongst the five townships (Bloomington, Clear Creek, Indian Creek, Perry and Van Buren) that currently comprise the District. The townships of Clear Creek, Indian Creek and Perry previously experienced a lower rate than that of the townships of Bloomington and Van Buren which became part of the District on January 1, 2021. The equalization into one single District rate resulted in an increase in Clear Creek, Indian Creek and Perry.

Second, the District as a whole has increased the number of Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians by 67% to meet the current needs of the community. Previous personnel levels were designed for the jurisdiction as it was nearly three decades ago. This necessary increase in firefighters further moves your fire service towards meeting national standards and has greatly increased the capabilities of the District to serve the community adequately.

Third, in the initial year of these changes, including merger and staffing increases, additional property taxes are necessary to supplement a lesser amount of Local Income Tax (LIT). This does not mean that you will be taxed additionally on your income, but that the current year’s LIT distribution is based on the District of last year. Next year, the LIT amount increases from \$871,120 to approximately \$2,375,100. This means next year the amount of property taxes necessary to support operations will be reduced.

For those residing in Van Buren and Bloomington townships, there are two specific things to look at;

First, your 2020 “special” tax line was based solely on the Monroe County Solid Waste District’s rate. On the current tax bill, the 2021 “special” tax line includes the District’s fire protection. In some cases, this has resulted in what appears to be an 1,800% increase in that line, which is

misleading as that figure is based on the “special” line not having included your fire protection last year.

Second, it is very important that you note the fact your “township” tax line will show a reduction. This is the amount of dollars being backed out of the “township” line as a result of your fire protection moving to the District. While the equalization of tax rates did level out the amount you are paying, there was still a slight increase due to the reasons mentioned above.

In addition to this information I would also like you to be aware our organization is currently undergoing an updated review by the Insurance Services Office. As promised in 2019 when the above additions to your fire service were presented, your investments will greatly impact the Fire Protection Class and could save you significantly on your homeowners insurance. Historically, communities similar to ours, experiencing the same potential changes, have seen an average reduction of 46.2% on their homeowners premium. We will have additional information to share about this process in the coming months.

On a personal note, as the Fire Chief and as a taxpayer, myself – I assure you we at the Monroe Fire Protection District are working hard to ensure your tax dollars are being put to the most effective and efficient use possible and that you and your family’s safety are our top priority.

If you have any questions concerning this issue or about the district, please always feel free to contact me.

Thank you.



Dustin C. Dillard  
Fire Chief