

PRESS RELEASE

DECEMBER 2, 2020

A Joint Statement from the Mill Township Trustees and Union Township Trustees and Village of Dennison about Fire Protection in 2021:

Effective January 1, 2021, Mill Township and Union Township have approved a 5-year agreement for fire coverage from Dennison Fire Department. We want to assure our residents that when you have an emergency and dial 911, Smith Ambulance and Dennison Fire Department will arrive with trained staff and equipment to meet the needs of our people with their years of dedicated EMS and Fire service experience.

The Ambulance Coalition originally included Uhrichsville, Dennison, Mill Township, Union Township, Warwick Township, the Village of Tuscarawas and Rush Township. It began in the 1970's when the local funeral home's discontinued their ambulance services. Smith Ambulance has been a respected EMS provider in Tuscarawas County since 1983 and has been providing services to the Twin City area since 1999, so they are well equipped and staffed and able to handle any emergency care needed.

Uhrichsville Fire Department provided well for Mill and Union townships with well trained staff and equipment over the years and we would like to thank them for their years of dedicated service in caring for our residents.

When Mill Township was given a choice to continue the contract with Uhrichsville Fire Department, they looked at many factors, including cost, trained EMS and Firefighter personnel, distance from emergencies in the townships, response time and a good working relationship. Uhrichsville left the coalition on January 31, 2020, the Ambulance Coalition then entered into an agreement for EMS coverage with Smith Ambulance effective April 1, 2020. Dennison Fire Department's EMT's staff the ambulance during the night hours for the villages and townships. They are very well trained and most of them are also employees of Smith Ambulance. Since Uhrichsville left Mill Township in 2003, we felt it was in the best interest of our residents to have the Fire protection and EMS come from fellow Mill Township residents, so we chose Dennison Fire Department to handle the fire protection for the township.

Union Township was also given the choice on continuing the contract with Uhrichsville and decided not to enter into a contract with them. They signed a contract with Dennison Fire for fire protection after evaluating the same factors used by Mill Township.

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The Village of Dennison's Fire Department maintains a very well trained and experienced staff who have been meeting the needs of the village for many, many years. The department is well equipped and is in the process of building a new 4 bay garage to house the increased equipment provided by Mill and Union Townships. It will also add additional space for the 2 Smith ambulances currently housed at the Dennison Fire Department. The Village has a 2021 Ford Explorer First Response vehicle, a 2019 GMC Sierra 1500 Brush Truck, a 2014 E-One International 1250 GPM 1030 gallon tank Fire Pumper, a 2000 Pierce International 1250 GPM 1000 gallon tank Rescue Fire Engine, and also Mill Township's 1997 International Fire Pumper and 2007 Ford 350 Brush truck along with Union Township's 1996 International 4900 Tanker at its immediate disposal to respond to fires and other emergencies in the village and surrounding communities.

We would like to assure our residents that our decisions were not made lightly and serious consideration was given to address the needs and concerns for all our residents. The Dennison Fire Department has a ISO protection rating of 4 so no change is expected for homeowner insurance rates.

We look forward to the new year and we will be here to provide premium services to our residents and businesses in the Village of Dennison, Mill Township, Union Township, and EMS services to Warwick Township and the Village of Tuscarawas.