The North Annville Township Board of Supervisors met at the Union Water Works Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m. on December 29, 2025 for the purpose of a special meeting to reduce the fire tax millage rate and amend the 2026 budget. All members were present. Also present was: see attached attendance sheet in minute book.

Clyde Meyer, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on Resolution No. 7-2025, which will create a 0.6 mill fire tax for the years 2026 & 2027 instead of the 1.0 mill fire tax for the years 2026, 2027 & 2028 which was implemented by the supervisors at the December 8 regular monthly meeting. In response to Bruce Buffenmeyer's question regarding whether or not the tax will cease to exist at the end of the two-year period, Aaron Miller, Vice-Chairman, stated that the supervisors would have to reinstate the tax in order for it to continue beyond the year 2027. In response to J. R. Bomgardner's question pertaining to the millage rate, Clyde stated that the Township applied for $475K in grant funding but was awarded $350K in grant funding. In response to fire company member's concerns pertaining to the applicability of the grant money to a fire engine, Aaron stated that the Township will roll thru the process for a change order. Wayne Tshudy stated that North Annville's population is 40% of the population of adjacent townships and income is 93% of those places. Clyde stated that the merger of the two fire companies reduced the amount of fire apparatus which will be in North Annville. Aaron stated that the fire companies, thru the merger, have reduced the dollar value of equipment they own by 26%. Wayne then questioned the reason(s) that existing equipment isn't suitable and stated that it seems as though the Township is not taking into account the fact that it is small. Keith Blauch, North Annville Fire Co. Chief, stated that the Fire Co. responded to over 220 emergency incidents this year. Keith went on to note that he gives a monthly report on the number and type of incidents as well as the man hours logged by Fire Co. volunteers. James Hoffman, Sr. stated that there are antitrust lawsuits being brought against fire truck manufacturers, as three manufacturers currently control 80% of the fire truck market. Mark Sallada, Deputy Fire Co. Chief, stated that U.S. Fire is not part of the REV Group which owns a majority of the fire truck manufacturing business. Bruce Buffenmeyer extended his appreciation to volunteer firefighters and then stated that he opposes being taxed and feels that the Fire Co. should repair existing apparatus instead of replacing it. Keith stated that chicken bbq and other Fire Co. fundraisers can no longer raise the amount of funds required to purchase replacement apparatus, to which Bruce responded by suggesting that Fire Co. property be sold. Aaron stated that a dependable fire engine is needed to serve North Annville Township and that Township and Fire Co. funding has been committed for that purpose. Aaron continued by stating that the merger was successful and at this point we are going to have a 0.6 mill fire tax for two years and then have more discussions about how to move forward. In response to Bruce's question regarding the retention/sale of Fire Co. properties, Mark stated that the premature sale of property would result in the loss of volunteers. Bruce stated that Fire Co. and Township representatives met behind closed doors and decided to retain all the properties, to which Adam Wolfe, Secretary-Treasurer, replied that no such meeting has occurred. Brian Tshudy stated that the Township should be able to levy a higher income tax as opposed to the levy of a fire tax, to which Mark replied that North Annville still does not levy a general purpose property tax. Clyde stated that the substantial increase in fire truck prices over the last five years is the reason that a fire tax is necessary. In response to Cindy Tshudy's

concerns about larger fire trucks, Mark stated that the replacement truck is slightly larger in size and will hold 8 people instead of 6 people. Aaron made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 7-2025, for the purpose of
implementing a 0.6 mill fire tax for the years 2026 & 2027. Clyde 2nd the motion, motion carried.

Next, Adam read aloud the changes to the 2026 budget, which involve a transfer from the general fund to the fire apparatus fund, along with multiple changes to the line items in the fire apparatus fund. See budget for further details. In response to a question concerning the use of reserve funds instead of implementing a fire tax, Clyde stated that the supervisors do not want to pull the fund balances down to the level which would result from the lack of a 0.6 mill fire tax. Adam made a motion to approve the 2026 Revised Final Budget as presented. Aaron 2nd the motion, motion carried. In response to concerns about the number of Fire Company properties, Aaron stated that the process of working existing equipment out of the system will take time and it does not all fit in one fire station. Mark suggested holding a town meeting to explain the operations of the Fire Co. and stated that he doesn't agree with the fire tax going away in two years. Aaron stated that equipment must be sold in the proper manner and Mark explained the concept of selling certain apparatus in the correct season. Mark stated that selling the social hall in Bellegrove would result in the loss of $40K in annual fundraiser income. Jim Hoffman stated that there is no infrastructure in North Annville and continued by stating that a considerable amount of firefighting equipment was purchased thru the use of grant funds. Jim went on to caution against selling things for pennies on the dollar because you'll never get it back again. Mark stated that the Fire Co. advised the supervisors to begin levying a small tax several years ago. Wayne suggested repairing existing equipment ahead of time, to which Mark replied that the Fire Co. cannot fix equipment when a building is on fire. Mark continued by stating that the fire service will be 100% paid firefighters by the time he passes away and everybody will pay to staff a paid fire service. Aaron stated that the equipment replacement plan will be reviewed every year and that everyone has had the chance to get his/her two cents in.

Aaron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Adam 2nd the motion, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam D. Wolfe

Adam D. Wolfe, Secretary