

**KINGSVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING**  
**Special Meeting**  
**March 27, 2024**

The March 27, 2024 special meeting of the Kingsville Township Trustees was called to order at 1800 by Chairman Jim Branch, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The special meeting is to address Kingsville Township's participation in the Northeast Joint Fire District after the non passage of the levies by the residents.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** 1) Chief West spoke in support of pursuing the fire district in a more strategic manner. Chief West suggested a meeting with all parties, the fire district board, fire chiefs, fire department personnel, and trustees from all three departments, if we are going to continue in the district. Chief West believes the district was thrown together very rapidly causing inconsistencies and a breakdown in communication. Jim Branch acknowledged Chief West's concerns. Jim Branch explained the timeline and the events leading up to the formation of the fire district. Chief West also mentioned issues with staffing levels and qualifications of the staff in the district. Mike Cliff acknowledged Chief West's concerns with the fire district staff lacking the necessary certifications and qualifications. 2) Mikayla Arcaro had concerns about the qualifications of the staff in the fire district. Mikayla Arcaro also referenced a breakdown in communication regarding who is in charge of what. 3) Mike Cliff inquired as to where the disconnect started with the fire district. Jim Branch acknowledged the public comments and advised that the surveys that were returned were in line with the public's comments. Mike Cliff agreed that everything is on the table after hearing public comments as well as the input from the surveys that were sent out. 3) Neal Stewart stated he was under the understanding the residents were being asked to vote to form a fire district which was already formed prior to the election. Neal questioned the need to join the district when Kingsville was already providing quality service to its residents. Karl Brunnell explained the reasoning for joining the district was to continue to provide quality service with a cost savings as well as provide 24/7 coverage which was previously not an option. Neal Stewart also believes there was not enough planning and public input as the reason the voters did not support the district. 4) Mike Cliff asked Chief West how Kingsville Fire Department moves forward if they were to exit the fire district. Chief West mentioned a six or seven person hire to make sure shifts are covered and come up with a recruitment and retention plan. Jim Branch has two concerns with the district. The first is the overall quality of the staff which was brought to light through the surveys. Part of the reason for joining the fire district was to provide a better quality of service. The surveys returned did not reflect that. The second concern was leadership. Jim Branch mentioned issues with leadership were brought up from both Kingsville and the fire district. Jim Branch asked Chief West how Kingsville moves forward should Kingsville opt out of the fire district with regards to staffing and leadership. Chief West did acknowledge the pool of trained and qualified employees to choose from is small. Mike Cliff asked the question about the recruiting of employees recently. Chief West referenced the various reasons for struggling with recruitment of new employees. Jim Branch presented the numbers from the last two elections. Jim Branch asked for any input from the other two departments in the district with regard to the non-passage of the levy to fund the fire district. Monroe acknowledged the results of the election were not favorable trying to move forward. Monroe spoke about the three fire departments agreeing to a three-year contract and asking Kingsville to consider giving the district one year. Jim Branch still has concerns with the direction of the district with leadership issues and the schedule not being filled. Jim Branch feels like this is a setback from what Kingsville was previously providing its residents. Neal Stewart asked the Kingsville Trustees to listen to what the voters are telling you and look at doing what is best for Kingsville residents. Chief Coy presented a schedule that he believes would provide coverage for the district. Chief Coy hoping the three fire departments will continue in the fire district. Tod Baker addressed the board and residents on the

benefits of a district vs abandoning the district. Mr. Baker acknowledged the growing pains and challenges of building a district. Mr. Baker spoke about challenges as opportunities to provide a better service moving forward as a fire district. Tom McCumber addressed the fact that the levy was voted down twice and the Kingsville Trustees should acknowledge the residents are not in favor. Chief West acknowledged Tom McCumber's comment and added there are still problems if Kingsville opts to exit the fire district. Tom McCumber suggested putting levy on for Kingsville Fire Department. Jim Branch advised the special meeting would be adjourned to allow Kingsville Township Trustees regular scheduled meeting to start as scheduled at 1900 where this meeting will continue.

Jim Branch made a motion to adjourn the March 27, 2024 special meeting of the Kingsville Township Trustees. Karl seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Jim Branch, Chairman

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Michael DeFazio, Fiscal Officer