

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-16

A Resolution Supporting a Change in State of Wisconsin Statutes Exempting Tax Levy Authorized Under State Statute 66.0602(3)(h)2 for a Joint Fire Department be Excluded from the Calculation Determining Eligibility for Qualification for the Expenditure Restraint Program under State Statutes 79.05(2).

WHEREAS, the City of Glendale and the Villages of Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, River Hills, Shorewood and Whitefish Bay jointly operate the North Shore Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the North Shore Fire Department qualifies as a Joint Fire Department as defined in State of Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 66; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 66 authorizes an exemption from Local Levy Limits in the State of Wisconsin for Joint Fire Departments in accordance with the Statute; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the North Shore Fire Department and the governing bodies of the communities jointly operating the North Shore Fire Department have identified that the amount of the levy increase authorized under Chapter 66 may result in a member community not qualifying for payment under the State of Wisconsin Expenditure Restraint Program as outlined in Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 79 despite the amount of the levy being authorized under State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the amount of money a member community may lose if it is disqualified for the Expenditure Restraint Program could far exceed the small increase in the levy authorized under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 66 for the Joint Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, North Shore Fire Department Board of Directors does not believe the intent of the levy limit exemption for joint fire departments included in Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 66 was to have municipalities participating in the joint fire department disqualify for the Expenditure Restraint Program; and

WHEREAS, a report by the Wisconsin Policy Forum, a non-partisan, independent policy research organization, written in 2015 demonstrated an increased level of service provided by the joint fire department as opposed to the level of service provided by the preceding seven individual fire departments and that the member communities would need to pay about \$2.8 million more annually to provide an equivalent level of service as is being provided today if they had not consolidated; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Policy Forum report found that the consolidation to a joint fire department in the seven municipalities saved the member municipalities up to \$3.4 million in vehicle replacement costs from 1995 - 2015 due to a reduced number of vehicles required under

a joint fire department and improved buying power that is provided by a joint fire department;
and

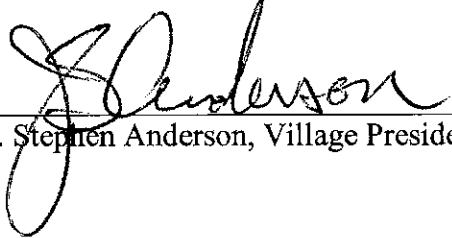
WHEREAS, the North Shore Fire Department Board of Directors believes that amending the Statutes to exclude the levy limit increase authorized in Chapter 66 for joint fire departments from the calculation used to determine qualification for the Expenditure Restraint Program not only would meet the intention of the original legislation but will also incent other municipalities in the State to consider creating a joint fire department in order to increase levels of service and decrease costs to taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Shore Fire Department, representing the seven-member communities, supports a change in State of Wisconsin Statutes exempting tax levy authorized under State Statute 66.0602(3)(h)2 for a joint fire department be exempt from the calculation used to determine qualification for the Expenditure Restraint Program in Wisconsin Statutes 79.05(2).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of River Hills Board of Trustees support a change in State of Wisconsin Statutes exempting tax levy authorized under State Statute 66.0602(3)(h)2 for a joint fire department be exempt from the calculation used to determine qualification for the Expenditure Restraint Program in Wisconsin Statutes 79.05(2).


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Village Board of the Village of River Hills this 15th day of May, 2019.

VILLAGE OF RIVER HILLS



J. Stephen Anderson, Village President

Countersigned:



Tammy LaBorde
Village Manager/Clerk/Treasurer