



Western Coventry Fire District
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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“OPPOSING THE FORMATION OF A COVENTRY MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT”

Resolution No. 2026-01

The Western Coventry Board of Directors resolves that we do not support the formation of a Coventry Municipal Fire Department at this time based upon the information presented in the Coventry Municipal Fire Commission Report dated December 2, 2025. The following are the key areas of concern:

- Public safety: The proposed staffing of Western Coventry will be immediately reduced to two first responders. The present flexible staffing profile that allows significantly greater staffing has been implemented on an as need basis. This occurred on both Christmas Eve and New Years Eve when 4 first responders were on duty. This was very beneficial on New Years eve when a structure fire occurred in the district, as it allowed for more apparatus to respond immediately and quickly knock down the fire. Additional first responders make themselves available both at the fire station and to respond from home at no cost to the taxpayer unless activated for fire or rescue needs. This loss of per-diem and call first responders follows the trend where per-diem and call first responders were eliminated from the Hopkins Hill Fire department with no decrease in taxes. The current per-diem staffing of highly trained and experienced first responders which includes 3 former Fire Chiefs, 5 Paramedics, and 20 EMTs, most of which would be lost.
- The budget does not take into consideration an adequate representation of all the expenses required to operate a municipal department. For example, the

data is incomplete and the report recommends: “A MERS study should be conducted to determine future pension obligations. In addition to this, a resolution to conduct a MERS study needs to be put in front of the Town Council. This study should include the process of adding WCFD personnel...”

- Cost to the taxpayers will be significantly increased with no increase in services. The report discusses savings of \$445,000 however Figure 7 of the report also shows the four fire districts presently collect \$9,167,207 in taxes, while Figure 9 shows the municipal fire department will require \$10,384,516 in taxes, and increase of 13.27%.
- The report does not improve response time to the residents of Western Coventry as no additional stations will be built to shorten the distance between any fire station and the residences being responded to.
- The Pros and Cons chart of the report is significantly flawed and needs to be corrected. Many entries are not adequately discussed in the report. For example, the entry: “Legal issues with WCFD having two tax bills” is not discussed and has no basis in fact.
- Based on the report and the departments’ financial debt, the Town cannot afford to take over the four fire districts. The town manager and treasurer needs to do an audit of each district including future anticipated cost required to comply with NFPA 1710 that they foster in the report.
- The report does not discuss if due diligence has been performed on the properties being acquired to ensure that there were no significant structural or environmental issues that would also be acquired.
- The Commission’s report does not include any information concerning future needed or planned capital expenditures.
- The report erroneously states that WCFD did not provide 1) current third-party contracts for building maintenance, apparatus maintenance, and certain pieces of equipment, and 2) the proposed budget actual approved. Any and all information requested from WCFD was provided.

For the reasons outlined above, the Western Coventry Board of Directors does not support the formation of a Coventry Municipal Fire Department at this time. The Commission’s report contains significant inaccuracies, incomplete financial analysis, and unresolved public safety concerns that must be fully addressed

before any consolidation is considered. Additional detailed information and a full presentation will be provided.

Sponsored by:

Passed or Denied on a vote of 3-0

Stephen Bousquet-Chairman Board of Directors