

**Special Meeting
Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2025
5:00 P.M.**

Al Knable called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*

Present: President, Al Knable; Vice President, Jason Sharp and Frank Loop

Also Present: Auditor, Diana Topping

Highlander Fire: Michael Bloom, Matt Smith, Billy Stewart, Bill Fender

Georgetown Fire: Kyle Johnson, Michael Moody, Mark Ringenberg, Geoff McNulty

New Albany Township Fire: Daniel Jacobs, Gib Kenney, Ben Gipe

New Business:

1. Professional Service Contract

Jason Sharp said the Commissioners decided to bring on a consultant, Jeff Dixon, to help with the Fire Territory. Mr. Dixon is a nationally registered paramedic; board certified in critical care flight tactical wilderness and board-certified community paramedic. He has been a paramedic for 25 years, currently as a clinical supervisor for an air medical base where he oversees 5 nurses, 4 paramedics, 4 pilots and a mechanic.

Motion to approve the contract. Moved by Jason Sharp. Seconded by Frank Loop. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Fire Territory Discussion

Michael Moody, chairman of Georgetown Fire Protection District, stated they have a quorum.

Matt Smith, Chairman Highlander, stated they have a quorum.

Daniel Jacobs, New Albany Township Fire Protection District, stated they have a quorum.

Jason Sharp said the purpose of the meeting is to have an open, honest conversation with each other about what coming into the territory could possibly look like and even an opportunity to talk to the people from New Albany Township and Georgetown Township of why they thought going the route of the territory was best for them and their communities.

Michael Moody said he is comfortable and happy with the direction Georgetown Fire is going. There are some things that are being put in place that are going to be for the long-term benefit of our community. He said the revenue funding for the district has not been changed for a long time. Their revenue stream was for the staffing of one station and they now have two stations. They have bought all their equipment with cash. When they were approached by Franklin Township, they decided a fire territory would be the best option. New Albany Township was interested in the Fire territory but Franklin Township was not interested.

With Senate Bill 1, they would be losing \$1.4-1.5 million in LIT.

New Albany and Georgetown have followed through with creating a fire territory effective January 1, 2026.

Daniel Jacobs said they realized, early on, that it made sense to join forces with another agency.

Matt Smith said LIT is going away but there are other LITs that can be put into place. From a Highlander Fire standpoint, they have a max levy that they are not even close to. Financially, they are good for several years.

Auditor, Diana Topping, said the LIT changes take effect in 2028 and a lot of changes can happen between now and then. There is a specialty LIT that can be adopted by the Council in the end of 2027 for 2028 and then adopted annually, it is not required for them to do that. They are the ones who set the rate. Currently, every Fire District receives the certified local income tax with a guaranteed amount from the rate that is set. Currently the local income tax rate is 1.78% throughout the entire County. In 2028, where you live will denote the tax rate.

Jason Sharp said the Public Safety tax that the Council put in place goes away, as it stands now, in 2028. The Council could put in place the Fire and EMS LIT but if you are dividing the LIT shares between different units, it dissolves the effectiveness. They are looking for a plan so they can bring everyone together so they can fund an EMS and everyone in the County has the same EMS system. He said with everyone in the Fire territory, it removes redundancies and makes the service more efficient.

Michael Moody said Georgetown Fire has been able, by transitioning to the territory model, to ensure their ability to have the revenue to provide the service to the community for the foreseeable future. They would not have been able to do that if they remained a district.

Jason Sharp said he has had discussions with County Council who would be willing to look at doing the financial analysis for everyone.

Al Knable said the first step is to look at all the options. He is hearing a willingness to do so. The next step would be doing a financial analysis.

Motion by the Georgetown Fire Board:

Motion to continue working with the existing fire districts and the County Commissioners and Council on the discussion on a Floyd County Fire Territory encompassing the entire territory
Moved by Mark Ringenberg. Seconded by Geoff McNulty. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Motion by Highlander Fire Board:

Motion for the financial analysis review. Moved by Matt Smith. Seconded by Michael Bloom. Motion passed unanimously.

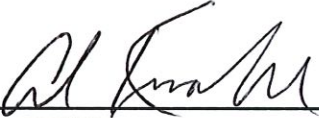
Motion by New Albany Township Board Fire:

Motion to move forward with the exploration of a true County wide fire territory. Moved by Daniel Jacobs. Seconded by Ben Gipe. Motion passed unanimously.

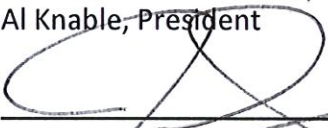
Motion to adjourn. Moved by Frank Loop. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved on October 7, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



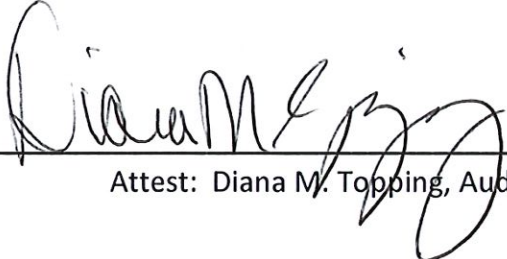
Al Knable, President



Jason Sharp, Vice President



Frank Loop, Commissioner



Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor