

After the Copenhagen Village Board of Trustees voted to abolish the Copenhagen Volunteer Fire Department, we have learned that a petition is going to be circulated to reverse that decision by a Public Referendum/Vote. We wanted to make sure you have the information you need to decide if you want to sign the petition or not.

If you sign the petition you are signing for a vote to decide if the Village of Copenhagen keeps its Volunteer Fire Department or not. Here's what you are signing up for:

The possibility of keeping the Copenhagen Volunteer Fire Department and the village taxes going up by almost 46% This year's tax rate was \$8.626/\$1000 it will go to \$12.58/\$1000 (see calculation on back page for details)

The Village Board would still not have the control necessary to safeguard your taxpayer money and property. The Village Board will still not be able to provide the accountability the Towns are looking for to re-enter into contracts with the Village for Fire Protection, leaving Village taxpayers to pay 46% more to maintain the Fire Department. It will essentially be business as usual for the Fire Department.

What has taken place:

The Towns of Denmark, Pinkney and Harrisburg have all sought fire protection elsewhere. Town of Denmark, as of Thursday September 22, 2022, voted to terminate the Contract for Fire Protection effective October 22, 2022. We expect that the Towns of Pinkney and Harrisburg will follow suite. The Town of Champion has been made aware of the situation and will be making arrangements for alternate fire protection for their residents.

Our Village of Copenhagen Board has made arrangements with a neighboring Fire Department to Cover the Village of Copenhagen. They will be housing a pumper/tanker in a building in the center of the Village. There are members that live within 2-3 miles of the village that will respond to our calls from this station with this apparatus. We have a number of volunteers that are going to join the contracted department to provide additional manpower for all of the Village's emergency needs.

If you would like to view the meeting where the vote to abolish the department took place you can visit the Linkinglewiscounty Facebook page or visit <https://youtu.be/ZpSwpmEGsAM> This meeting has a lot of information about why the Village Board of Trustees passed the resolution.

There are also village and fire department meeting minutes available on the village website or by request at the village office. Village website is [www.copenhagen.racog.org](http://www.copenhagen.racog.org)

Or ask your village board members for more information.

**The most important job your elected officials have is to safeguard taxpayer money, property and ensure public safety (this includes fire protection) That is what your elected officials are doing.**

What it will cost Taxpayers of the Village of Copenhagen if there are no contracts with the Towns for Fire Protection.

Current Fire Department Income:

Town of Denmark-	\$40,000 (down from \$60,000 f/y 2020)
Town of Champion-	\$37,773 (contract set to expire Dec. 2023)
Town of Pinckney-	\$15,000
Town of Harrisburg-	\$13,492.76 (down from \$20,000 f/y 2021)
Village of Copenhagen	\$17,000
Total Revenue:	\$123,265.76
Village of Copenhagen	\$28,170 paid in Workeman's Compensation 2022 \$ 2,000 paid in mandatory NYS Fire Fighter Cancer Benefit Insurance premium (approximate cost
Grand Total:	\$153,435.70

Village Taxpayers currently pay \$1.76/\$1000 on their property taxes for our Fire Department (Compensation, Cancer Benefit Insurance and Monies paid \$47,170 total)

This amount is 20.4% of our village tax revenue. \$8.626/\$1000 current tax rate

In order to maintain the current level of support for the Fire Department at \$153,070 our tax revenue would need to go up, just for the fire department, \$106,265.70.

Village tax rate would go from \$8.626/\$1000 to \$12.59/\$1000 an increase of \$3.954/\$1000  
This is a 45.95% increase in your taxes.

The average \$100,000 home would go from \$862.60 to \$1259 per year in taxes.

Many of the costs for the fire department are static and remain the same even if we only cover the village and not outside the village. We still have to pay to train fire fighters. We still have to replace, repair and maintain buildings and equipment. We still have to do hose testing, pay for heat, lights and fuel. We still have to pay insurance premiums. It is not feasible for the village of Copenhagen to maintain a fire department without outside contracts/income.