

**[This is a copy of a document posted by Monroe County commissioners on the county government's website on or around Sept. 24, 2024]**

Questions Regarding the Inclusion of Bean Blossom Township in the Fire Protection District:

**Background:** The Bean Blossom Township Trustee requested procedures necessary to join the Monroe Fire Protection District. The Commissioners approved Monroe County Resolution 2024-27 outlining the requirements.

On August 28, 2024, the Commissioners attended the final Public Engagement Session/Meeting in Bean Blossom Township, at which time, residents shared questions specific to the process and what is required.

The process has two different avenues, each of which would trigger a public hearing.

**Item A** below outlines the statutory process which is required for any amendment or change to the fire protection district (ie, adding Bean Blossom Township to the District). **Item B** below outlines the additional process that provides for remonstrance and a public hearing by the Board of Commissioners.

The remonstrance process contemplates a public hearing that would occur **before** the statutory process is completed. *(a number of 50 is much easier to obtain than 500)*

**A. The Statutory Public Hearing on amending the Fire Protection District, is required regardless of remonstrance.**

Monroe County Resolution 2024-27 references the statutory requirement of a petition, which states and answers:

**Question #1:**

- What number of property owners are required to trigger a County Commissioner Public hearing?
  - I. At least twenty percent (20%) of the property owners within the proposed district, must sign a petition in favor of joining the Fire Protection District.
    - i) A **minimum** of five hundred (500) signatures are required.
    - OR
    - ii) A majority of those property owners owning land within the proposed district, whichever number is less.

*Bean Blossom Township consists of just under 1396 unique parcel owners. **While an in-depth analysis for the number of free holders has not yet occurred, it appears that five hundred (500) petitions approving the merger will be necessary.***

**B. Public Hearing on Remonstrance**

**Question #2:**

When, Who, and how can I remonstrate against becoming part of the Fire District?

- I. **(When)** Within 30 days of the Township's last Public Engagement Session/Meeting (**August 28, 2024**), therefore the Auditor's office will accept the Petition for Remonstrations **until September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.
  - a. **(How)** Remonstrations can be requested by contacting the Monroe County Auditor's office.
- II. **(Who)** Owners of taxable property located in the **Monroe Fire Protection District**, the **unincorporated boundaries of the Bean Blossom Township**, or the **Town of Stinesville**, may file with the Monroe County Auditor.
  - a. Remonstrations must be received in the Auditor's office by September 27, 2024.
    - i. IF 50 petitions are filed, the Auditor will notify the Board of Commissioners and **will schedule a public hearing** to hear the merits of the remonstrations **in October 2024**.
      1. At the Public Hearing, the Board of Commissioners *could* deny the proposal to join the Fire District OR they could have a dialogue with the Fire District, outlining the concerns of the remonstrators.

***If less than 50 petitions are filed, a public hearing will not be held.***
- III. Simultaneously, while addressing the remonstrators, property owners will be electing to sign or not sign, the petition to join the district. **500 property owner signatures are required to enable the Statutory Public Hearing**.
  - i. Presuming 500 property owners sign in favor of joining the Fire Protection District, the **Public Hearing will be held in December 2024**.