

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07

**RESOLUTION OF THE PENN TOWNSHIP/PENN FIRE PROTECTION TERRITORY
OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA
INTENDING TO FORM A NEW FIRE TERRITORY IN 2026 TO GO INTO EFFECT ON
JANUARY 1, 2027.**

WHEREAS, the governing body of Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory, in cooperation with neighboring communities and townships, has recognized the need to enhance fire protection services through consolidation and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana allows local governments to create a "fire protection territory" to provide fire protection and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the participating units, including Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory and its neighboring communities, have engaged in discussions regarding the potential formation of a new fire territory; and

WHEREAS, these discussions have resulted in a mutual understanding that the establishment of a fire territory will improve service delivery, enhance operational efficiency, and address fiscal challenges faced by the participating units; and

WHEREAS, the statutory formation period for the new fire territory will occur during 2026, with the intent for it to take effect on January 1, 2027, subject to all legal and procedural requirements being met, including but not limited to the preparation of necessary resolutions, ordinances, and agreements, as required under Indiana law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory, as follows:

1. **Commitment to the Formation of a New Fire Territory:**
Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory hereby expresses its formal intent to participate in the formation of a new fire territory during the statutory formation period in 2026, with the new fire territory to be effective January 1, 2027.
2. **Collaboration with Neighboring Communities:**
Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory commits to working collaboratively with neighboring communities and townships within St. Joseph County, Indiana, which may include: Centre Township, Clay Township, German Township, Harris Township, Penn Township, the Town of Indian Village, the Town of Osceola, and the Town of Roseland, to establish the new fire territory and to ensure that all necessary steps are taken in accordance with Indiana law.
3. **Preparation for Transition:**
Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory will begin preparations for the formation of the new fire territory, including but not limited to, discussions on governance, funding, personnel, service delivery, and other related matters, with the aim of ensuring a smooth transition by the January 1, 2027, effective date.
4. **Legal and Fiscal Considerations:**
Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory will work with legal counsel and other appropriate experts to ensure that all required resolutions, agreements, and documentation are in place to meet all statutory requirements for the establishment of the new fire territory. Additionally, Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory will evaluate the financial impact of the new fire territory to ensure sustainability and efficiency in its operations.
5. **Future Actions:**
The governing body of Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory will take all necessary actions in 2025 and 2026, including the adoption of specific ordinances and resolutions, to finalize

the creation of the new fire territory in compliance with state law during the statutory formation period in 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption and that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the appropriate parties for further action and coordination in the formation process.

ADOPTED this 24th day of March, 2025 by the governing body of Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory.

Penn Township/Penn Fire Protection Territory
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA



Doris J. Portolese, Executive Director

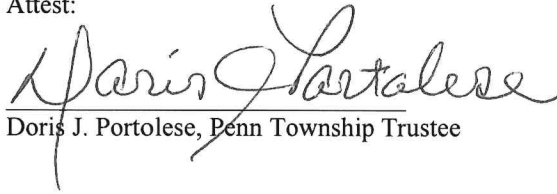


Kent Hizer



David Schmidt

Attest:



Doris J. Portolese, Penn Township Trustee