

RESOLUTION NO. 08242020-1

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM ELECTION BALLOT
RELATING TO A JOINT AGREEMENT FOR EMS SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Fire/EMS Chiefs from the Darien Fire/EMS Department, the Sharon Fire/EMS Department, and the Walworth Fire/EMS Department (“the Chiefs”) have been working together for over a year to develop a plan to provide 24/7 Paramedic-level Emergency Medical Services to the areas served by these three Departments;

WHEREAS, the areas served by these three Departments include the Village of Darien, the Town of Darien, the Village of Sharon, the Town of Sharon, the Village of Walworth, and the Town of Walworth (“Municipalities”); and

WHEREAS, the Darien Fire/EMS Department, the Sharon Fire/EMS Department, and the Walworth Fire/EMS Department (“Departments”) operate within the Volunteer category of Wisconsin Fire Departments. Personnel are paid either hourly or by stipend for calls, meetings, and training, but often have additional part and full-time jobs; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, the Volunteer Fire/EMS Departments in Wisconsin and all over the United States have changed substantially. Due to a variety of factors, fewer people have the time and resources to commit to volunteer departments; and

WHEREAS, the Departments have struggled to function while facing the lack of resources available for volunteer departments, and that has resulted and will continue to result in negative health outcomes for residents in the service areas; and

WHEREAS, the Chiefs are proposing to contract with a private service provider (“Provider”) to provide fire and emergency medical services to the Departments’ service areas 24 hours per day, seven days per week as a joint venture between the Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Chiefs have requested that the Village and Town Boards of the Municipalities (“Governing Bodies”) adopt a Resolution authorizing a referendum election ballot for the November 3, 2020 Presidential and General Election to ask voters if they are willing to pay additional property taxes for the additional fire and emergency medical service; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Walworth has the authority to approve a referendum election ballot for regular or special election; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed and discussed an advisory referendum election ballot for the November 3, 2020 Presidential and General Election at the regular Town Board meeting on August 24, 2020, for that purpose and with due notice having been given as required by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Walworth, Walworth County, Wisconsin, does hereby approve the following advisory referendum election ballot to be considered at the November 3, 2020 Presidential and General Election for electors in the Town of Walworth:

“Should the Town Board of the Town of Walworth increase the levy for the next three fiscal years, 2021 through 2023, by \$150,000.00 in 2021, by \$155,000.00 in 2022, and by \$160,000.00 in 2023, to be used toward the establishment and maintenance of a third-party contract for full-time paramedic-level Emergency Medical Service provision in the Village of Darien, Town of Darien, Village of Sharon, Town of Sharon, Village of Walworth, and Town of Walworth and which would be in addition to the Town of Walworth’s current obligation under the Fire/Emergency Contract(s) with the Village of Walworth that include part-time paid on premise fire/rescue personnel?”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board establishes the following explanatory statement and effect of vote on the referendum election ballot:

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT AND EFFECT OF VOTE

The Town Board of the Town of Walworth, Walworth County, Wisconsin, recognizes that Governing Body has control over the Town’s property tax levy up to the limits imposed by Wisconsin State Statutes. The Town of Walworth has the tax levy capacity under these limits to increase the property taxes to pay for the Town’s portion of the contract for full-time paramedic-level emergency medical service provision. However, the Town Board desires to put this question to the voters in the form of an advisory referendum election ballot to be voted on during the November 3, 2020 Presidential and General Election in order to determine if voters are willing to pay additional property taxes for the additional emergency medical service.

The referendum election ballot will ask Town of Walworth electors to vote “yes” or “no” on the referendum election question as set forth above.

A “yes” vote on the question means that the elector is in favor of additional taxation by the Town of Walworth through an increase in the annual property tax levy in 2021, 2022, and 2023 to pay for the Town’s portion of the cost of the Contract for a private entity to provide 24/7 Paramedic-level EMS coverage to the service area, consisting of the Village of Darien, Town of Darien, Village of Sharon, Town of Sharon, Village of Walworth, and Town of Walworth.

A “no” vote on the question means that the elector is not in favor of additional taxation to pay for the additional Paramedic-level EMS service in the service area.

Adopted this 24th day of August 2020.

TOWN OF WALWORTH BOARD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Rowbotham", written over a horizontal line.

David J. Rowbotham, Chairperson

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marie Baker", written over a horizontal line.

Marie Baker, Town Clerk-Treasurer