



PEOTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Statement from the Peotone Fire Protection District regarding a referendum to consolidate with the Manhattan Fire Protection District

Peotone voters will have an opportunity to approve a consolidation between the Peotone Fire Protection District and the Manhattan Fire Protection District on the upcoming June 28 General Primary Election ballot.

The Peotone Fire Protection District learned this week that a referendum to consolidate the two agencies will be placed on the ballot of the June election. A yes or no question on the ballot will read as follows. "Shall the Peotone Fire Protection District dissolve and be consolidated into the Manhattan Fire Protection District?"

The Peotone Fire Protection District's Board of Trustees sees benefits of consolidation because the residents they serve will receive better service by adding full-time firefighter/paramedics and lieutenants. Additionally, the District anticipates that a consolidation could hold the line on future tax increases with the possibility that their tax burden could be eased going forward.

The two districts believe a combined fire district will be better equipped to deliver fire, rescue and emergency medical services to a region that is rapidly growing and evolving. Further, the districts forecast that a consolidated district will provide long-term financial stability, sustainability, and an opportunity to build a fire service that best serves the communities of Peotone and Manhattan well into the future.

Both fire protection districts are already working in close partnership with one another. A shared services agreement enacted in October 2020 where the Manhattan FPD provides all administrative support for the Peotone FPD has already generated more than \$600,000 in cost recovery and savings for both districts. If voters approve consolidation, the new district can deliver additional operational, financial, and administrative benefits.

Both districts have been working over the last several months to educate the communities they serve about the facts related to a potential consolidation so that they can make an informed, educated decision about the future of fire service in their community.

Both districts have hosted community events where residents can ask questions about a possible consolidation. Both districts have also provided ample, detailed information about a possible consolidation on their websites and social media channels. Going forward, both districts pledge to continue the outreach and information-sharing concerning potential consolidation.

For more information about how a consolidation will impact our community, please visit:
<https://www.peotonefire.org/content/consolidation/>.

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