

Resort Bear Creek Fire Department Additional Fire Hall Proposal FAQs

Why is this fire station being considered?

The addition of this proposed station would improve fire protection and quicken response times for multiple township areas. Establishing this station could help reduce property insurance premiums for properties within 5 road miles, as part of the fire department's Insurance Service Office ratings.

Where would the new station be located?

The proposed new building would be located at 1710 Click Rd, Petoskey, MI 49770. The township purchased this property in fall 2020.

How big is the proposed new station?

The new building would be approx. 14,000 square feet. Of this, 6,000 square feet would be used to host 8 bays of fire hall.

How big is the existing Bear Creek Township station?

The current Bear Creek Township offices and station is approximately 9,000 sq ft. Of this, 4,000 sq ft is used for the fire bays.

What would happen to the existing Bear Creek Township offices and fire station?

The current Bear Creek Township offices would remain in place at the existing location at 373 N Division Rd, Petoskey, MI 49770. That station (Station 1) would also remain operational. The proposed fire station is *in addition* to the current building.

Would this be a manned station?

The new station would help prepare Resort Bear Creek Fire Department for its next phase of development. A goal is to hire firefighters to staff this as a manned station in the future.

Would new equipment be purchased for this station?

The proposed new station would house 6 pieces of equipment currently owned by the department, while also allowing room for future growth.

How would this project be funded?

The estimated cost of the project is \$6,000,000. This would be funded from the Bear Creek Township general fund and the fire fund, as well as a millage, if approved by voters.

How many mills are being requested?

The proposed millage rate is up to 0.5152 mills and the bond proposal will appear on the ballot for February 27, 2024. The township board voted on this millage rate request and bond proposal language at its regularly scheduled public meeting, on November 1, 2023.

How much of the funding would come from the millage?

The township has saved approximately \$2 million to put towards this project. The bond proposal would allow the township to borrow up to \$4.1 million to complete the project.

Is the township considering grants to pay for this new station?

The township has recently been working with a grant writer. This will assist the township in pursuing future grants and funding opportunities.

How would this new station impact the neighboring community?

Little additional traffic would be expected due to this station. The primary “traffic” would be from emergency vehicles leaving the station to respond to calls in that area. Access is proposed off Click Rd, with emergency vehicle access from River Rd.

When will this bond proposal appear on the ballot?

This proposal will appear on the ballot for February 27, 2024. Sample ballots will be posted on the Bear Creek Township website as they become available. The bond proposal language is as follows:

Fire Station Bond Proposal

Shall the Township of Bear Creek, County of Emmet, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Four Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,100,000), and issue its unlimited tax general obligation bonds, in one or more series, payable in not to exceed twenty (20) years from the date of issue, to pay all or part of the cost of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping a new fire station, including all site improvements, appurtenances and attachments? If approved, the estimated millage to be levied in 2024 is 0.5152 mills (\$0.52 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 0.4315 mills (\$0.43 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

Why is a new voting location being considered?

Since 2000, the Bear Creek Township voting-age population has grown by nearly 50%. In cooperation with the Petoskey Snowmobile Club, the Township has been using the club’s facility as a second voting location. However, this location is also being outgrown. A new township facility would provide for a larger, secure space for elections to occur, in conjunction with the space at the existing Bear Creek Township Hall. A new voting location would provide more voting booths in a larger space and enhanced election security at a township-owned location.

Would the meeting hall be available for community use?

It is expected that the meeting hall would be available for community use. Terms and rates for usage would be developed and determined by the township board.

How can I be involved?

The Bear Creek Township Board has been hosting special meetings to work on this proposed project, and will continue to do so. Special meeting dates and times will be posted on the website:

www.bearcreektownshipmi.gov as they become available (times and dates have not yet been set). We encourage you to join us!

I have a question about this fire station that is not on this FAQ list. Who should I contact?

Please contact the Bear Creek Township Clerk, Emma Radatovich, for further questions. She is available via email at: clerk@bearcreektownshipmi.gov or phone at 231-347-2455.