

Monday, January 06, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

Parkesburg – Mr. Ray Campbell, Board Chairman of the Keystone Valley Fire Department, on behalf of the Board of Directors, released the following statement in reference to the community conversation on the 2014 Fair.

"We decided to engage the community in this conservation because the Fire Department has a decision to make. Do we or do we not have the annual Fair? When looked at as a solely "Fund Raising" event the answer is simple; basic cost to benefit mathematics tells us it is not profitable. However, many of the department members feel that the fair is more than just a moneymaking venture. It is a tradition (a strong word in the fire service), and it is also a way to get the department to interact with the community.

The success and/or failure of the fair in the years past is due to a myriad of factors. Now we want to determine if the continuation of the Fair is best for all. It really does come back to community participation, and teamwork. As an example last year's weather was a huge problem, and none of us can control that condition. Generating this conversation was not to play the blame game.

Now on to what we did want to accomplish. We wanted to generate conversation about the fair in hopes of: (1) hearing ideas about the fair and what might be done to make it more appealing to the community, (2) getting some idea of what effect the fair has on the community; both positive and negative, (3) preparing the community for the possibility that there may not be a fair (IMPORTANT: has not been decided yet!), and finally looking at alternatives.

However, we need and appreciate your constructive feedback. Is our decision going to make everyone happy? Probably not. Is it going to be the perfect solution? Probably not. Is it going to be the last tough decision we are going to have to make? Definitely not. The Keystone Valley Fire Department is a business and our business is protection. Like any good business it has responsibilities: fiscal, social and the commitment to provide a good product to its customers. KVFD is here to do that. So, at the end of the day the one thing I can assure you of is the Keystone Valley Fire Department will be there to help those in their time of crisis with the best possible trained staff and equipment. We provide a service based on what the taxpayer pays for and include the core concepts of why we consolidated and to better communicate to the municipalities that we do not generate income, we provide a service consummate to what is funded for, but we also want to be good community partners.

So thank you for your feedback! We will continue to monitor the social media sites for comments, and encourage those who wish to further comment to do so by signing in as a guest on our website. This topic will be discussed at the next KVFD Business meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2014."

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