

**July 24, 2024**

**Town of Linn Elector Meeting  
Monday, October 7, 2024, 7:00 P.M.  
LINN TOWN HALL  
W3728 Franklin Walsh Street, Zenda, WI 53195**

The Town of Linn, WI, is scheduling a Town Elector Meeting to seek approval for continual funding of the City of the Lake Geneva Fire/EMS Department staffing to provide Linn residents 24/7/365 coverage. The staffing model includes the following service levels:

- response to emergency calls in less than 10 minutes, 80% or better response time in the non-rural area of the Town, or 15 minutes or less in rural areas of the Town;
- provide paramedic or Advanced Level Service to the community; and
- provide a minimum of three emergency medical services personnel on-scene to medical emergencies.

For many years, Linn has been served by Fire/EMS paid-on-call volunteers. In recent years, the Town has faced significant challenges in providing emergency medical services due to difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified volunteers to provide emergency medical and fire services to the community.

In 2023, the Town hired a consultant to conduct a comprehensive study and analysis to assist the Town in making future decisions concerning Fire/EMS staffing. The study considered three staffing options:

- Creating a Linn Fire/EMS department to provide 24/7 Fire/EMS Coverage
- Partnering with the City of Lake Geneva to provide 24/7 Fire/EMS Coverage
- Continuing with the current Fire/EMS Coverage.

After reviewing the study, discussing the viability of continuing with the current Fire/EMS coverage with current Fire/EMS personnel, reviewing response times, quality of care, and cost options, the Town Board voted to approve a short-term agreement with the City of Lake Geneva to provide 24/7 professional Fire/EMS personnel for the year 2024. To cover to expense, the Town borrowed and repaid \$1.5 million using property tax funds. The cost of the service translates to an annual property tax payment of an estimated \$219 for a home assessed at \$300,000, or 60 cents per day.

The Town is requesting voter approval to incorporate funding for Lake Geneva Fire/EMS Department staffing into the Town's tax levy to reduce volatile borrowing expenses while ensuring the Town continues providing quality 24/7 Fire/EMS services. Approval of this resolution will support the Town's goal of reaching a long-term agreement with the City of Lake Geneva to continue providing Linn residents with reliable and quality fire and emergency medical services.

The Town is hosting a public information forum to discuss the proposal with the public on Monday, September 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Attendees can join in-person or remotely.

The Town also created a Facebook page and webpage to share information with residents about the benefits of the Town of Linn and City of Lake Geneva Fire/EMS partnership.

Town webpage: <https://townoflinn.wi.gov/town-of-linn-city-of-lake-geneva-fire-ems-partnership/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LinnLakeGenevaFireEMSPartnership/>

If you have any questions about the Lake Geneva Fire/EMS staffing coverage, please email Administrator-Treasurer Jim Hurley at [admin@townoflinn.wi.gov](mailto:admin@townoflinn.wi.gov).