



HR0324

LRB103 32655 MST 62353 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Clover Township Fire Protection District on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its founding on June 10, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, In 1947, Woodhull Fire Department Trustee Fay Bell was instructed to start procedures to form a fire protection district; and

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WHEREAS, On June 17, 1948, the local fire department was dissolved, and the Clover Township Fire Protection District was formed by a vote of 51 in favor and 15 against; and

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WHEREAS, In July of 1948, Circuit Court Judge Richards appointed Harold Holmes, Carl Herndon, and Fay Bell to serve as the district's first trustees; Carl Herndon was replaced by Henry Faulkner, who in turn was replaced by Reginald Bergstrom; Harold Holmes was replaced by Dean Litton and Fay Bell, the longest serving trustee in the district's history, died while in office and was replaced by Kenneth Martin; and

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WHEREAS, In 1948, the first year of the district, \$2,965 was collected as the district's portion of property taxes; by 1964, the tax base had increased to \$6,335.77; assessments for

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1 1981 were \$23,000 and, in 1982, the tax base jumped to \$33,000  
2 compared to \$119,000 in 2015; and

3 WHEREAS, On May 28, 1949, the district purchased a fire  
4 truck from the Village of Woodhull for \$250; and

5 WHEREAS, On June 6, 1949, the fire district formed its  
6 fire department with 13 able-bodied volunteers; J B Anderson  
7 was named chief, Earl Elliott was named assistant chief, and  
8 Dale Johnson served as secretary/treasurer for the fire  
9 department; and

10 WHEREAS, On September 24, 1949, a new two-ton truck  
11 chassis was purchased from Luallen's; the body was built by  
12 Gene Morris and Alexis Fire Equipment Company at a cost of  
13 \$4,649 and delivered to Clover on November 15, 1949; and

14 WHEREAS, In March of 1950, a bond referendum was passed to  
15 issue \$15,000 in bonds to build a new fire station and to  
16 purchase another fire truck; and

17 WHEREAS, On May 7, 1951, a one-ton truck was purchased  
18 from Luallen's for \$1700; the body was again built by Alexis  
19 Fire Equipment for \$3,675.30 and delivered on August 22, 1951;  
20 the new fire station was a cement block structure 30 feet by 42  
21 feet and was located just east of Division Street at East 2nd

1 Avenue; the building was constructed by Gene Woolley at a  
2 total cost of \$5,400 and completed on November 12, 1951; and

3 WHEREAS, On May 17, 1951, a used Ford chassis was  
4 purchased for \$450; the body was built by Alexis Fire  
5 Equipment for a cost of \$3,765 and put into service on August  
6 28, 1952; in July of 1953, maps of the entire fire district  
7 were purchased; and

8 WHEREAS, On August 24, 1954, a warning siren was purchased  
9 for \$313 and mounted on the roof of the east side of downtown;  
10 the siren now resides at the fire station as a memorial to  
11 past, present, and future firefighters; on January 14, 1961,  
12 the district took delivery of a 1960 Ford Alexis-built pumper,  
13 replacing the old Ford tanker; and

14 WHEREAS, On May 20, 1969, a Chevrolet chassis was  
15 purchased from Luallen's for \$5,776; Alexis Fire Equipment  
16 built the body for \$10,000 plus trade-in; and

17 WHEREAS, On April 13, 1979, a used 1974 Chevrolet van was  
18 purchased from Alexander Lumber Company for \$3,300; the van  
19 was outfitted with air-packs, protective clothing and other  
20 emergency equipment and responded with the fire trucks on all  
21 calls; and

1           WHEREAS, In December of 1981, the old fire station located  
2 at East 2nd Avenue was sold on sealed bids to Woodhull State  
3 Bank for \$10,255; at the same time, firefighters moved into  
4 the new fire station at East Highway Avenue; the 80 feet by 60  
5 feet Cuckler steel structure was constructed by HLR Carlson  
6 Construction at a cost of \$70,000; firefighters finished the  
7 interior of the building, which included a meeting room,  
8 kitchen, and rest rooms; and

9           WHEREAS, In January of 1982, three FM mobile radios and an  
10 FM base radio were purchased for \$3000 from Gem Electronics in  
11 Monmouth; they replaced citizens band radios that used Channel  
12 9 as the emergency communication channel; at that time, the  
13 fire department was averaging 24 calls a year; the ISO  
14 combined, class rating at that time was Class 8 for the village  
15 and Class 9 for rural; as a reference, Class 1 is the very best  
16 class awarded by Insurance Services Organization and Class 10  
17 represents no water source/no coverage; and

18           WHEREAS, In 1982, the Women's Auxiliary was resurrected  
19 after many years of inactivity; their purpose was to raise  
20 funds for additional fire equipment; at their first meeting,  
21 Sandy McDowell was elected president, Jill Larson  
22 vice-president, Kim Goodrich treasurer, and Connie Eiker  
23 secretary; to raise money, the women started having bake  
24 sales; then, they organized their very first pancake

1 breakfast, using the kitchen's stove and electric pancake  
2 griddles; as a result of the women's efforts with subsequent  
3 fundraisers, they were able to purchase portable radios,  
4 pagers, turnout gear, and loose tools; in 1986, they  
5 spearheaded the fundraiser to purchase their very first set of  
6 hydraulic rescue tools known as the "Jaws of Life"; and

7 WHEREAS, The next new truck would not come until 1989, a  
8 fluorescent red pumper; the color was considered ahead of its  
9 time, though it has been very popular in Europe for many years;  
10 the Chevolet Kodiak chassis was purchased from Wight Chevrolet  
11 in Williamsfield, and the body was built by Alexis Fire  
12 Equipment for a total cost of \$105,000; and

13 WHEREAS, In March of 1991, Clover Fire began lobbying  
14 their state and federal representatives for an emergency  
15 crossover in the median of Interstate 74 between the two,  
16 east/west rest areas; by May of 1991, the crossover was  
17 approved and then constructed at I-74 MM 28.5; and

18 WHEREAS, In May of 1995, Clover Fire underwent an ISO  
19 Classification audit; their Combined ISO Class at the time of  
20 the audit was Class 8 for the village and Class 9 in  
21 unhydranted and rural areas; in October of 1995, word was  
22 received that the ISO Combined Class would be Class 6 for the  
23 village and Class 9 for rural; and

1           WHEREAS, On June 27, 1998, a banquet celebrating the 50th  
2 anniversary of the formation of the fire district was held at  
3 the Homestead Restaurant in Woodhull; commemorative medallions  
4 were presented to all of the guests, including past  
5 firefighters, current firefighters, past trustees, and current  
6 trustees, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Morris and Galesburg FD Chief and  
7 Mrs. Cratty; guest speakers included State Representative Don  
8 Moffitt, Mayor Lloyd Carlson, Jeff Morris of Alexis Fire  
9 Equipment, Galesburg FD Battalion Chief John (Tyke) Jordan,  
10 and keynote speaker, Assistant Chief Rick Lasky of  
11 Darien-Woodridge Fire Department; congratulatory letters were  
12 received from President Bill Clinton, Governor Jim Edgar, U.S.  
13 Senator Dick Durbin, Congressman Lane Evans, State Senator  
14 Todd Sieben, Secretary of State George Ryan, Illinois Fire  
15 Chiefs Association President Tom Allenspach, Illinois  
16 Association of Fire Protection Districts President Richard  
17 Baier, and State Fire Marshal Tom Armstead; it was a special  
18 night for Willis Luallen, Glen Kasparie, Merrill Brown, and  
19 Dale Johnson, who joined the department in 1948, the year that  
20 the fire district was formed, and served for many years; and

21           WHEREAS, In August of 1998, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was  
22 held at the Galesburg Regional Fire Training Site; Clover  
23 Fire, Western Illinois Firefighters Association, State  
24 Representative Don Moffitt, State Senator Carl Hawkinson, and

1 former Galesburg FD Chief Dale May assisted Galesburg FD and  
2 Chief John Cratty in securing the very first training site  
3 outside of facilities in Champaign; following the  
4 ribbon-cutting ceremony, training was held for 82  
5 firefighters; and

6 WHEREAS, In September of 1998, delivery was taken on a  
7 Freightliner Alexis-built engine with 5-person cab, 1500 gpm  
8 mid-ship pump with top-mount controls and painted iridescent  
9 mother-of-pearl white over fluorescent red at a total cost of  
10 \$198,000; the state-of-the-art engine was dedicated to those  
11 who had served their fire district; and

12 WHEREAS, In November of 1999, Chief Art Goodrich  
13 participated in the Illinois Volunteer Fire Service Summit, a  
14 first-of-its-kind in the nation; the summit was videocast to  
15 selected state universities and community colleges; many  
16 recommendations from the summit became House and Senate bills  
17 that strengthened the Illinois volunteer fire service; and

18 WHEREAS, On October 13, 2000, Clover Fire responded to the  
19 largest vehicle accident scene in its district's history; the  
20 accident was caused by a field fire that was blowing across the  
21 eastbound lanes creating "white-out" conditions; by the time  
22 traffic was stopped, 16 cars, semis, and pickups were  
23 involved; the incident resulted in one fatality and 14 victims

1 transported by ambulance; and

2 WHEREAS, In March of 2001, State Representative Don  
3 Moffitt became the first honorary member of Clover Township  
4 Fire Protection District, due to his tireless and unwavering  
5 support of Clover Fire, other area fire departments, and the  
6 Illinois Fire Service as a whole; and

7 WHEREAS, In July of 2003, Trustee Art Goodrich was invited  
8 to serve on the state committee that would write the rules  
9 creating, then governing, the Fire Truck Revolving Loan Fund,  
10 also known as the Zero Interest Fire Truck Loan Program; also  
11 serving on the committee were Chief Peter Vina, Don Moffitt,  
12 Chief John Cratty, John Kohlhepp, Simony Schwartz, Larry  
13 Smith, Dave Foreman, and Chief James Grady; and

14 WHEREAS, In December of 2005, the first female firefighter  
15 joined the fire department; Kassi Cowser, daughter of Captain  
16 Larry Cowser, made district history in what had been a  
17 department populated by "all able-bodied men"; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2006, the district purchased a 1993 Ford  
19 Alexis-built heavy rescue truck from the Chillicothe Fire  
20 Department at a cost of \$125,000; this was the district's  
21 first professionally-built rescue; the others were built by  
22 the department's volunteers; and



1           WHEREAS, In 2009, an international all wheel-drive  
2 Alexis-built pumper was delivered at a cost of \$298,000.00 and  
3 painted in traditional fire truck red; this engine was  
4 partially financed through the Zero Interest Fire Truck Loan  
5 program; and

6           WHEREAS, In June of 2015, an ISO audit was performed; in  
7 November of 2015, the results of the audit were received;  
8 within the village, Clover Fire received ISO Class 5; the  
9 rural classification is ISO Class 5X; since 1982, call volume  
10 has tripled; and

11           WHEREAS, In October of 2015, the AlWood Fire Explorer  
12 program was finalized; sanctioned by the Boy Scouts of  
13 America, the program welcomes anyone interested between the  
14 ages of 14 - 21 from Clover and Oxford Townships to participate  
15 in a structured setting where they can learn life-saving,  
16 firefighting skills; the inaugural group of Explorers were  
17 Ethan Ashby, Anthony Brown, Quentin Reckers, Breck Shannon,  
18 and Jacob White; therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we congratulate the Clover Township Fire Protection District  
22 on its 75th anniversary on June 10, 2023; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we wish the Clover Township Fire Protection  
2 District continued success in service to the community; and be  
3 it further

4           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the Clover Township Fire Protection District as  
6 an expression of our esteem and respect.