

The IAFF (International Association Fire Fighters) met at the FOP lodge for a QA session with candidates. There was no survey but several points were printed on handouts.

For Commissioner Candidates a summary of the points are:

- Secure funding for Fire/EMS
- Support 'meet&confer', collective bargaining and an MOU between Carroll County and IAFF.
- Preference given to local volunteers and incumbent employees vs. outside hires.
- Support competitive wages and compensation.
- Improve Public Safety Pension to be competitive.
- Fix retirement to 66 2/3rds.
- Support growth and adaption to ensure safety of the communities.

I support civil and emergency services as I described to the FOP at their meeting. I prefer local hires for all businesses and civil services to bringing in employees from outside Carroll.

What we discussed at this meeting:

Our services, be it police, fire or rescue, should be supported with adequate pay, equipment or training to ensure safety of themselves and the community. When asked about the budgets for the new Department (as Maryland is switching from volunteer system to professional hires) I stated that: **I Would Fully Fund The Department From The Budget And Not Implement New Taxes.**

There was some misunderstanding that I had in the past with the Educator's Union here in Carroll. The IAFF rep also seem to not understand that I do not support Agency Fees or Representation Fees. In the past there have been arguments that non-members need to pay a fee to receive benefits from collective bargaining. That is a position I cannot support. I told them: **I Support Collective Bargaining But I Do Not Support Dues To Be Collected From Non-Members Even As A Fee For Agency Or Representation.**

This led to a discussion on payment for services and I think there was some confusion in regards to that. The confusion seemed to be in regards to payment for calls (ie 911) but this question was asked by the union rep while the firefighters were asking something else. There was discussion of a Public Safety Tax. **I Do Not Support Special Tax Districts Or Implementing Special Taxes For A Specific Purpose.**

I want to be clear:

**The Activities Of The Union Need To Be Funded By Their Own Members Or Other Revenue; The County Will Not Pay That Nor Will I Support Collecting Fees For Union Services From The Public As Taxes.**

**The Activities Of The Fire Department / EMS Will Be Fully Funded From The Budget. I See It As A Matter Of Infrastructure And Must Be Funded For The Safety Of The Community.**

**I Would Like To Increase Tax Revenue Into The County Budget By Increasing Minimum Wage Across Carroll County To Bring In More Revenue Without Increasing Actual Taxes. Income Tax Is A Percentage Of Income And Increases To Income Will Mean An Increase In Revenue At The Same Percentage. This Idea Is A Bit Circular With Civil Services Since Their Wage Comes From Taxes And Seems A Bit Like A Wheel, But Remember That All The County Pays Taxes Including The Private Sector And This Means More Income To The Budget.**