



## TOWNSEND FIRE COMPANY INC.

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Dear: Townsend Council

I am writing to the council regarding safety concerns about emergency vehicle access on the roadways within the town limits. Discussions at the public safety committee raised concerns on certain community streets that the committee brought to the Townsend Fire Company's attention.

The problem for Fire Company is access and maneuverability through the roadways of the Townsend incorporated area. During emergency and non-emergency responses, the size of the Fire service vehicles can slow or completely stop due to vehicles and other objects (dumpsters, trailers) parked or staged on both sides of narrow streets. Fire apparatus dimensions up to but not limited to a width of 10 feet and length of 46 feet, as in the case of the Volunteer hose Company (Middletown) ladder truck that is first due ladder into the town limits.

Narrow streets, especially curves in the street, can be a problem with maneuverability. The tail end of the longer truck can run a risk of swinging into the parked vehicles.

When wider vehicles (pickups, vans, ext.) are parked on one or both sides of the streets, it can cause total inaccessibility to Fire and EMS services.

With this, we need to find a way to gain more room for maneuverability on the streets that we have found to be problem areas. Most narrow streets have just enough room for the trucks, but as soon as the street curves or bends, the longer vehicles start to have clearance issues.

Some suggestions that came to mind to help the parking in the communities are to make parking on only one side of the streets; this can, and more than likely, be a controversial way of going about it.

Another way is to get the streets to widen. Most of all, the roads have grass between the curb and the sidewalk. Making these areas paved and the curb pushed up to the sidewalk will widen the road enough to allow more parking and make traveling with larger vehicles easier.

All the recommendations from the Townsend Fire Company are precisely that suggestions or proposals so the Town of Townsend can make proper decisions for the health and safety of the community.

If you have any questions, or if the council members have, you can contact me.

The list attached are streets that we have recommendations for.

*Patrick R. Gilchrist*

Deputy Chief

Townsend Fire Company

## **Townsend Village I**

### ***-Tracy Cir.***

The concern we have is the areas of the curves or bends. Between 753 to 731, 723 to 717, and 711 to 709

The residents of Tracy Cir. tend to keep the road open for us, and we have not had any issues. The recommendation is to advise the residents of the concern and the safety of maintaining the open roadway and continue to uphold the current laws and ordinances, especially the houses on the curves or bends.

### ***-Jamie Ln.***

No Parking on one side.

As this street is the only connector onto Tracy Cir., it's the recommendation to make this street No Parking on one of its sides.

### ***-Hugh Cir.***

This street is one narrow circle that is significantly tight, and the recommendation is that this street is to have the interior part of the circle as No Parking, as the inner side will cause the least amount of lost parking area.

### ***-Merle Ln.***

No Parking on one side. As this street is the only connector onto Hugh Cir., it's the recommendation to make this street No Parking on one of its sides.

### ***-Edgar Rd.***

The concern we have is the areas of the curves or bends between 202 to 257.

The recommendation is to advise the residents of the concern and the safety of maintaining the open roadway and continue to uphold the current laws and ordinances, especially the houses on the curves or bends.

The bend between 229 to 232 is a concern, and we recommend that this part should have the inner side of the street be a No Parking area.

## **Townsend Village II**

### ***-Esch St.***

The concern with all of Esch St. is that it's narrow from one end to the other and, most of all, a curvy one. The recommendation is to advise the residents of the concern and the safety of maintaining the open roadway and continue to uphold the current laws and ordinances, especially the houses on the curves or bends.

The street between 100 to 112 and 138 to Ginn St. have sharper curves or bends, and it is recommended to have the interior part of the street as No Parking.

### ***-South St.***

The recommendation is to advise the residents of the concern and the safety of maintaining the open roadway and continue to uphold the current laws and ordinances. The recommended between Hanson Ct. to Karins Cir. is No Parking on the East side or inner curves.

### ***-Collins Ct. / Hanson Ct. / Melvin Ct. / Margist Ct. Barcus Ct. and Buker Ct.***

All the cul-de-sacs are being recommended to have one side of the streets be No parking.

### ***-Karins Cir.***

No Parking at all.

## **Townsend Village II West**

The recommendation is to advise all the residents of the concern of the narrow streets and the safety of maintaining the open roadway and continue to uphold the current laws and ordinances, especially the houses on the curves or bends.

### ***-West Founds St.***

We recommend no parking on one side of the street from 1001 to 1005 and 1030 to 1046

### ***-East Founds St.***

We recommend no parking on one side of the street from 1100 to 1112.

### ***-Wiggins Mill Frontage Rd.***

This street is at the top of the list for concern as the two ends of the road have sharp bends. The north end is S-shaped so that if any vehicles are parked, we will not be able to enter the street. The recommendation is not to allow parking on either end of this street.

## **Townsend Station**

### ***-Mayfield Lane***

We recommended having no parking on the inner side of the road. The narrow street and the number of cars that are parked on the sides of the street are a concern every time we get dispatched to this area.