

## **2007 First Blood Drawn**

In the year 2007, the West Park Independent Hose Co. and Fleming Park VFD held meetings to organize a new Stowe FD. These meetings were held secretly out side the General VFD organization the 3 companies belong together for over 50 years. The Nov 15, 2007 General VFD / Relief Association meeting began the ground work to disband the General VFD and change the Relief Association bylaws recognizing only the newly formed Stowe FD. Despite our objections that we are being removed from the Relief is unjust and viewed this as a hostile take over, we were out numbered 2 to 1 voting majority. **[file: 2007\_11\_15 relief amendment.pdf , file: 2007 StoweFD Bylaws.pdf]**

Fire Chief Dave Gallagher sent a letter to the commissioners indicating he's in favor of consolidations and the study proposed but felt it was unnecessary. After the Dec 2007 meeting which the minutes were read and accepted Presston Received notice they are no longer recognized. In addition, an email from Fire Chief Gallagher remaining as an independent station is not an option. If firefighters want to continue to belong with Stowe FD they are to join one of the two remaining departments. **[file: 2007\_11\_16 Gallagher Ltr.pdf, 2007\_12\_10 Relief Ltr.pdf, 2007\_12\_18 Gallagher.pdf]**

During this time we did not have the knowledge of today and since have pieced together the events that had taken place. We've asked repeatedly "WHY?" has not been answered. Later you will read the township wanted us to be a substation which was not mentioned until the end of 2008. Reference the "reasons for consolidation" topic to understand why the 2 companies seek in closing the Presston VFD.