

## **Contract for Legal Services**

A two-year contract has been entered into by Sylvania Township with the Lucas County prosecutor's office to provide legal services.

The township in mid-2010 began to use the county office for legal representation instead of using private attorneys.

John Zeitler, township administrator, recommended approval of the contract which is for \$95,000 per year. It represents an increase of \$5,000 per year, the first increase since the agreement was first reached in 2010.

He said it is likely there will be a need for the attorneys because the township will soon enter into negotiations with its employee unions.

In addition to negotiations, attorneys are often needed for zoning matters, contract issues with employees, and lawsuits.

The prosecutor's office is also continuing to monitor an agreement between the township and KME, a Pennsylvania company which sold three fire trucks to the township, but which required nearly constant work. The township filed a lawsuit against the company, which has been settled, but satisfying the terms has not been concluded. Mr. Zeitler noted that most township officials are familiar with John Borell, who handles many of the township's legal issues, but the township used five different attorneys made available by the civil division of the prosecutor's office.

Board president John Jennewine and Trustee Neal Mahoney voted in favor of the issue while Trustee Kevin Haddad voted against it. He said he opposed the contract because county attorneys had not had a raise in pay in some years.

Mr. Jennewine said the township board has no business trying to determine the correct pay scale in the county prosecutor's office.

The most recent full year, 2009, in which the township relied on outside attorneys, the cost was \$329,885. In 2008, the township paid \$340,821 to private-practice lawyers for township work.

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