

Date: June 27, 2014 (updated July 11, 2014)

To: The Board of Trustees

From: Dave Simko

John Zeitler and I have reviewed the various types of levies that are available and the size of levy that is needed for the continued operation of the fire department.

Types of Levies

1- New Additional Levy

This levy has a maximum length of 5 years which at that point it ceases collection unless it is renewed by the voters. The dollar amount of the levy stays the same if it is renewed except for any new construction added to the tax rolls. If the renewal of this levy failed the dollar amount would cease to be collected in January of the next year which would cause a major reduction in the fire budget all at once.

2- Replacement levy

This type of levy would replace an older levy with the new property values in place at the time of the vote. This would result in increased revenue because of the higher property values. If the Township would replace the 1982 1 mill levy which is only collecting about .3 mills in today's values, that would result in approximately \$900,000.00 in increased revenue. The Township would still have to ask for a .8 mill new levy to provide the revenue necessary for the continued operation of the Fire Department. To the voters, the 1 mill replacement and .8 mill new would look like we were asking for 1.8 mills. This could result in confusion to the voter.

3- Renewal levy

We have no levies in place that can be renewed

4- New Continuing Levy

This levy is a continuous levy that does not expire. The dollars collected are based on the valuation at the time the levy is passed. Very little increase can be expected except for new construction over time. This levy provides stable funding that can be relied on in long-term planning of the Fire Department budget. Currently all police and fire levies are continuing

Recommendation

We have looked at the four types of levies and the revenue generated with 1.25 Mills, 1.50 Mills, and 1.75 Mills. We also looked at how long the levy should provide adequate funding for the Fire Department. (See Levy spreadsheets.) It is our desire to provide funding for at least 7 years based on our projections. With that in mind it is our recommendation to go with a **New Continuing 1.5 mill levy** to be placed on the November ballot. The 1.5 mills continuing levy estimated to provide adequate funding for the next 7 years (2015-2021) is estimated at \$1,820,140 per year would provide the following:

Service Upgrades

- Restore patient transport to supplement private sector (300 to 400 calls)
- Provide backup service to Lucas County E.M.S. unit (125 to 175 calls)

Personnel

- Continue adequate funding for part-time Firefighters (3 to 10)
- Add up to 3 full-time Firefighters (one per shift) over the next 7 years

Equipment

- Replace 1994 engine truck (pumper/rescue); 2003 engine truck (pumper/rescue) and 1996 medic unit as backup to county E.M.S. unit
- Replace 4 support vehicles and upgrade the air tank truck
- Replace 1994 mini-pumper & combine with 1995 utility pickup
- Set aside funding to replace 1997 aerial platform truck in 2020/2021 (if possible)