

Pinching Pennies

In an era when it seems most governments spend all they have and beyond, it's refreshing to report that the four main funds of Sylvania Township spent under what had been budgeted for this past year.

John Jennewine, president of the trustees, said John Zeitler, township administrator, along with Susan Wood, assistant administrator, had set a tone that expenses were going to be closely watched and that department heads and employees in general adhered to tighter rein on expenditures across the board.

Mr. Jennewine also credited Jim Beck, director of accounting and budget, for a close watch on spending through the year.

The department which held the reins tightest was the road and bridge fund. The expense budget for that section for 2011 was \$3,520,000, Actual expenses were \$2,909,000, or 82.5 percent of the budget at the start of the year.

General fund expenses had been budgeted at \$3,749,000, but spending was held to \$3,179,000, for 82.6 percent.

The police fund held expenses to \$6,487,000 in contrast to the amount of \$7,300,000 which had been budgeted, for 88.3 percent. The fire fund was near the same level, with expenditures of \$7,343,000 compared to the \$8,201,000 which was in the budget.

In written remarks to the trustees, Mr. Beck said the department "managers should be complimented for doing an excellent job on their spending."

Mr. Jennewine echoed that comment, adding that there have been state funding cuts and the general economy has hurt township revenue. Keeping a close eye on taxpayer money is one way the township can deal with it, he said.