

The Fire/EMS Levy is a new 1.0 mill levy to allow the Township to continue to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to our residents. The Township is faced with a very competitive market in regards to retaining experienced paramedics and firefighters to provide those services. Area Fire/EMS Departments have negotiated and approved substantial increases in compensation for their firefighters/paramedics and Margareta Township has lost a significant number of experienced employees to those departments. This new levy is needed just to stay somewhat competitive in regards to wages and benefits and allow us to retain our current staff.

Another reason for the new Fire/EMS levy is to keep the EMS services available to our residents. Several townships on the southern end of Erie County and the northern end of Huron County are being faced with the possibility of losing the services of North Central EMS and relying on a yet-to-be developed regional service that drastically limits response time to those in need. Margareta Township has been blessed with the support of our community in regards to our Fire/EMS Departments and in turn those residents receive excellent care in a very timely manner.

The Fire/EMS Levy is a 1.0 mill levy that would generate an additional \$194,097 annually and would cost homeowners an additional \$35 per year for each \$100,000 of property value. That equates to \$2.92 per month for each \$100,000 of property value. As much as the Township officials don't want to ask for additional tax dollars, the competitive marketplace for these services continues to become more and more expensive. The Township officials have been very prudent in the spending of taxpayer funds and have delayed the inevitable for as long as possible. A vote in support of this levy will allow the residents of the Township to know that excellent emergency services will continue to be a quick call away.

The Township also has a .25 mill renewal levy for our Parks/Recreation. This levy will allow the Township to provide continued maintenance and upgrades to Lions Park. This park is home to baseball/softball fields that hosts hundreds of kids each summer and bring in hundreds of more family members that support our local business with the purchase of food & beverages, meals at restaurants, and gas at the local gas stations. As the new school nears completion, plans are in place to build pickleball courts and a walking trail for use by community members and others.

The Parks/Recreation Levy is a .25 mill renewal levy that would continue to generate \$35,210 annually and would not be an increase in tax for our residents. Township residents would continue to pay \$6.00 annually for each \$100,000 of property value for the support of the park and recreation activities. This equates to 50 cents per month for each \$100,000 of property value. A vote in support of this levy will allow the Township to continue to provide beautiful park facilities to the community.