

MAY 11, 2020
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
7:30 PM
TO EXTENT KNOWN

Call to order- Meeting called to order as advertised and will be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Due to the recent outbreak of Covid-19 public access has been prohibited in the municipal building, therefor this meeting is being conducted via teleconference. The public has been invited to participate as advertised and noted on the Township website

- 1) Pledge of allegiance
 - 2) Roll call of members present
 - 3) Approval of Minutes, April 9th and 13th meetings
 - 4) Reports for the month of April: Tax Collector
Treasurers Budget Status Report
Zoning officer
Construction
 - 5) Public Hearing as advertised, Ordinance No. 2020-418, Amending Ordinance No. 2011-361 Authorizing Participation in the Joint Municipal Court Known as the Cumberland-Salem Regional Municipal Court, Amending Ordinance No. 2015-387 Authorizing Downe Township to Join CS Regional Municipal Court and Authorizing an Amendment to the Agreement for the Operation of A Joint Municipal Court Between the Township of Deerfield, Township of Downe, Township of Greenwich, Township of Hopewell, Township of Lawrence, Township of Pittsgrove, Borough of Shiloh, Township of Stow Creek and Township of Upper Deerfield
Open Close Adopt
 - 6) Public hearing as advertised, Ordinance No. 2020-419, Calendar Year 2020 Model Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank
Open Close Adopt
 - 7) Resolution 2020-35, Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of th3 Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - 8) Resolution 2020-36 – Local Examination 2020 Municipal Budget
 - 9) Resolution 2020-37- Read Budget by Title only
 - 10) Budget Presentation-hearing as advertised
Open for questions/Close/ Adopt
 - 11) Resolution 2020-38, Directing the Tax Collector to prepare and issue estimated 3rd quarter tax bills
 - 12) Resolution 2020-39, Surrender premium bid to Treasurer, Tax Liens Foreclosed
 - 13) Authorize payment of additional approved vouchers
- Committee comments
- Public Comments
- Adjourn

TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE

ORDINANCE NO 2020-418

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2011- 361 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT KNOWN AS THE CUMBERLAND-SALEM REGIONAL MUNICIPAL COURT, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-387 AUTHORIZING DOWNE TOWNSHIP TO JOIN CS REGIONAL MUNICIPAL COURT AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF A JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF DEERFIELD, TOWNSHIP OF DOWNE, TOWNSHIP OF GREENWICH, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, TOWNSHIP OF PITTSGROVE, BOROUGH OF SHILOH, TOWNSHIP OF STOW CREEK AND TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2011, Lawrence Township adopted Ordinance No. 361 authorizing the participation in the Cumberland Salem Joint Municipal Court (hereinafter “Joint Municipal Court”) by the Township of Deerfield, Township of Greenwich, Township of Hopewell, Township of Lawrence, Township of Pittsgrove, Borough of Shiloh, Township of Stow Creek and Township of Upper Deerfield (hereinafter the “Participating Municipalities”); and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the establishment of the Joint Municipal Court, the Participating Municipalities entered into an Agreement for the Operation of the Joint Municipal Court dated January 9, 2012; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2015, Lawrence Township adopted Ordinance No. 387 authorizing the participation Downe Township in the Joint Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the establishment of the Joint Municipal Court, the Participating Municipalities entered into an Agreement authorizing the participation of Downe Township in the Operation of the Joint Municipal Court dated July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Municipal Court has become known as the “CS Regional Municipal Court”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the January 9, 2012 Agreement between the Participating Municipalities, the CS Regional Municipal Court Committee was established; and

WHEREAS, Commercial Township has requested to become a participant in the CS Regional Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, the CS Regional Municipal Court Committee has reviewed the request from Commercial Township and recommended to the Participating Municipalities that Commercial Township be admitted as a participant to the CS Regional Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, all Participating Municipalities have approved the inclusion of Commercial Township in the CS Regional Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of Lawrence Township has determined to admit Commercial Township as a Participating Municipality in the CS Regional Municipal

Court and to take the action necessary to amend the existing CS Regional Municipal Court Agreement dated January 9, 2012 and the amended agreement dated July 1, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Lawrence Township Committee as follows:

Ordinance No. 361 and 387 be and the same are hereby amended to authorize participation by Commercial Township in the Joint Municipal Court known as CS Regional Municipal Court.

1. The Participating Municipalities, following the adoption of this Amendment to Ordinance No. 361 and 387 will be Commercial Township, Downe Township, Township of Deerfield, Township of Greenwich, Township of Hopewell, Township of Lawrence, Township of Pittsgrove, Borough of Shiloh, Township of Stow Creek and Township of Upper Deerfield.
2. The terms and conditions associated with the admission of Commercial Township to the CS Regional Municipal Court are that Commercial Township shall agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the January 9, 2012 Agreement and further that it shall remain a member of the CS Regional Municipal Court for a period of not less than three (3) years from July 1, 2020, (the "Effective Date") of the Amendment to the Joint Municipal Court Agreement and shall have no right to withdraw prior to the expiration of three (3) years from the Effective Date.
3. The Lawrence Township Mayor and Clerk/Administrator are hereby authorized to execute an Amendment to the Joint Municipal Court Agreement to permit the participation by Commercial Township and to amend that Agreement to provide that Commercial Township's participation shall be for a period of not less than three (3) years from the Effective Date of July 1, 2020.
4. This Amended Ordinance shall be conditioned upon, and shall not take effect unless and until all Participating Municipalities adopt an Ordinance authorizing participation in the CS Regional Municipal Court by Commercial Township and further authorizing and joining in the Amendment to the Joint Municipal Court Agreement dated January 9, 2012 and the amended agreement dated July 1, 2015.

Adopted

Attested:

Ruth Dawson, Township Clerk

First Reading:

Publication:

Publication of Final Adoption:

G. Erwin Sheppard, Mayor

AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF A JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF DEERFIELD, TOWNSHIP OF DOWNE, TOWNSHIP OF GREENWICH, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, TOWNSHIP OF PITTSBURGH, BOROUGH OF SHILOH, TOWNSHIP OF STOW CREEK AND TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD (THE "PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES") and COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

THIS AMENDMENT to the Agreement for the Operation of a Joint Municipal Court is made this 1st day of July 2020 by and between the TOWNSHIP OF DEERFIELD, TOWNSHIP OF DOWNE, TOWNSHIP OF GREENWICH, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, TOWNSHIP OF PITTSBURGH, BOROUGH OF SHILOH, TOWNSHIP OF STOW CREEK and TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD (the "Participating Municipalities") and COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP.

WHEREAS, the Participating Municipalities executed a Joint Municipal Court Agreement dated January 9, 2012 and an amended agreement dated July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Commercial Township has requested to become a participant in the Joint Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of Commercial Township has been recommended by the CS Regional Municipal Court Committee and participation has been approved by all Participating Municipalities by Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the participation by Commercial Township requires an Amendment to the Agreement for the Operation of a Joint Municipal Court dated January 9, 2012 and the amended agreement dated July 1, 2015, to acknowledge their participation in the Joint Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, the approval of Commercial Township's inclusion in the Joint Municipal Court by the Participating Municipalities was conditioned upon Commercial Township being bound to the Joint Municipal Court Agreement for a period of not less than three (3) years without the right to withdraw during that time; and

WHEREAS, the parties are desirous of executing this Amendment to the Joint Municipal Court Agreement dated January 9, 2012 and the amended agreement dated July 1, 2015, to provide for the participation of Commercial Township in the Joint Municipal Court on the terms and conditions set forth.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and conditions, it is agreed by and between the parties as follows:

1. The January 9, 2012 Agreement and the amended agreement dated July 1, 2015 for the Operation of a Joint Municipal Court be and the same is hereby amended to include Commercial Township as a Participating Municipality subject to all the terms and conditions of the January 9, 2012 Joint Municipal Court Agreement except to the extent modified hereby.

2. Commercial Township's participation in the Joint Municipal Court shall be for a period of not less than three (3) years from the Effective Date and Commercial Township shall not have the authority to withdraw from participation in the Joint Municipal Court during that time.
3. The Effective Date of Commercial Township's participation shall be July 1, 2020.
4. The Amendment shall be conditioned upon all participating municipalities adopting an Ordinance authorizing the participation of Commercial Township in the Joint Municipal Court.
5. This Amendment to the Agreement for the Operation of a Joint Municipal Court shall be deemed to amend, supersede and replace any provision of the original Agreement dated January 9, 2012, and the amended agreement dated July 1, 2015, which is inconsistent herewith. Any provision not inconsistent with the provisions of this Amendment shall remain in full force and effect

WITNESS/ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF DEERFIELD

By: _____
Mayor Michael Terrigno

TOWNSHIP OF DOWNE

By: _____
Mayor Robert Campbell

TOWNSHIP OF GREENWICH

By: _____
Mayor William Reinhart

TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

By: _____
Mayor Bruce R. Hankins

TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE

By: _____
Mayor G. Erwin Sheppard
TOWNSHIP OF PITTSBURGH

By: _____
Mayor Dr. Fiore Copare
BOROUGH OF SHILOH

By: _____
Mayor Brad Campbell
TOWNSHIP OF STOW CREEK

By: _____
Mayor Randy Dickinson
TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD

By: _____
Mayor James P. Crilley
COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP

By: _____
Mayor Michael Vizard

**CALENDAR YEAR 2020
MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, ORDINANCE NO. 2020-419

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.50% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.50% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.50% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Township of Lawrence in the County of Cumberland finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to 3.50% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Township of Lawrence hereby determines that a 1.00% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$13,900.12 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Committee of the Township of Lawrence hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Committee of the Township of Lawrence, in the County of Cumberland, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Lawrence shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.50%, amounting to \$48,650.42, and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the Township of Lawrence be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Attest:

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

G. Erwin Sheppard, Mayor

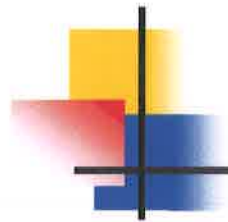
Approved on First Reading:

Date Publication of Approval /Public Hearing:

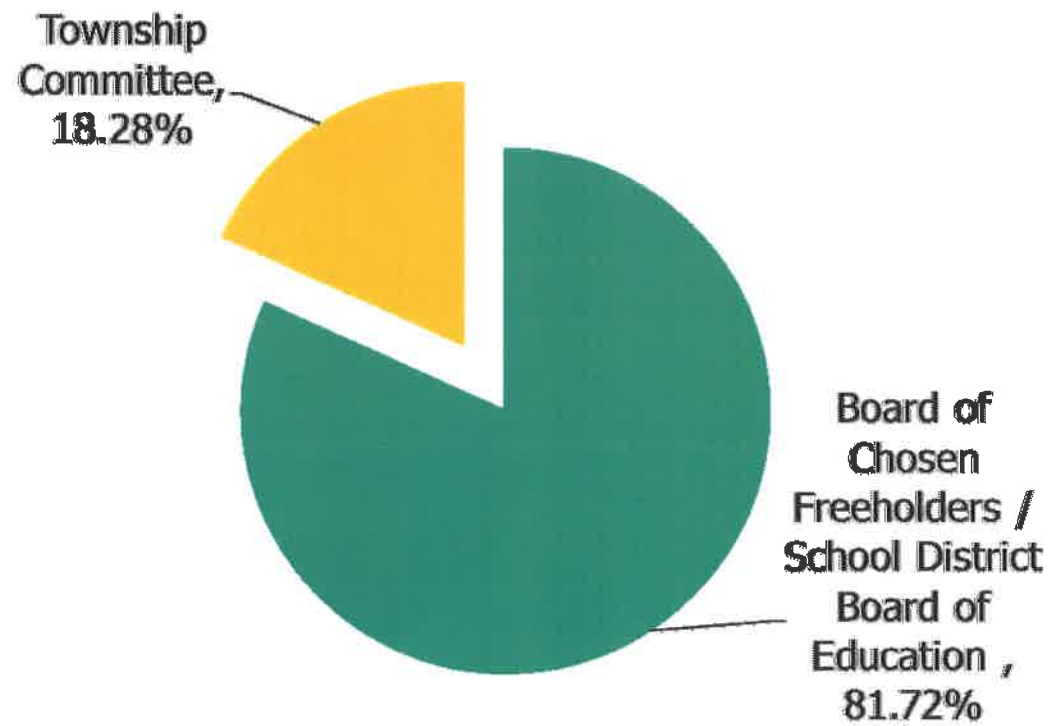
Date of Public Hearing/Final Adoption:

Publication of Final Adoption:

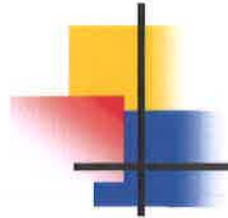
2020 Estimated Tax Bill Breakdown



Estimated Tax Bill



Assessments, Number of Homes, Tax Collection %



- Assessments

2020 - 231,245,778
2019 - 232,365,585
2018 - 233,136,875
2017 - 233,729,137
2016 - 236,485,231
2015 - 239,717,632

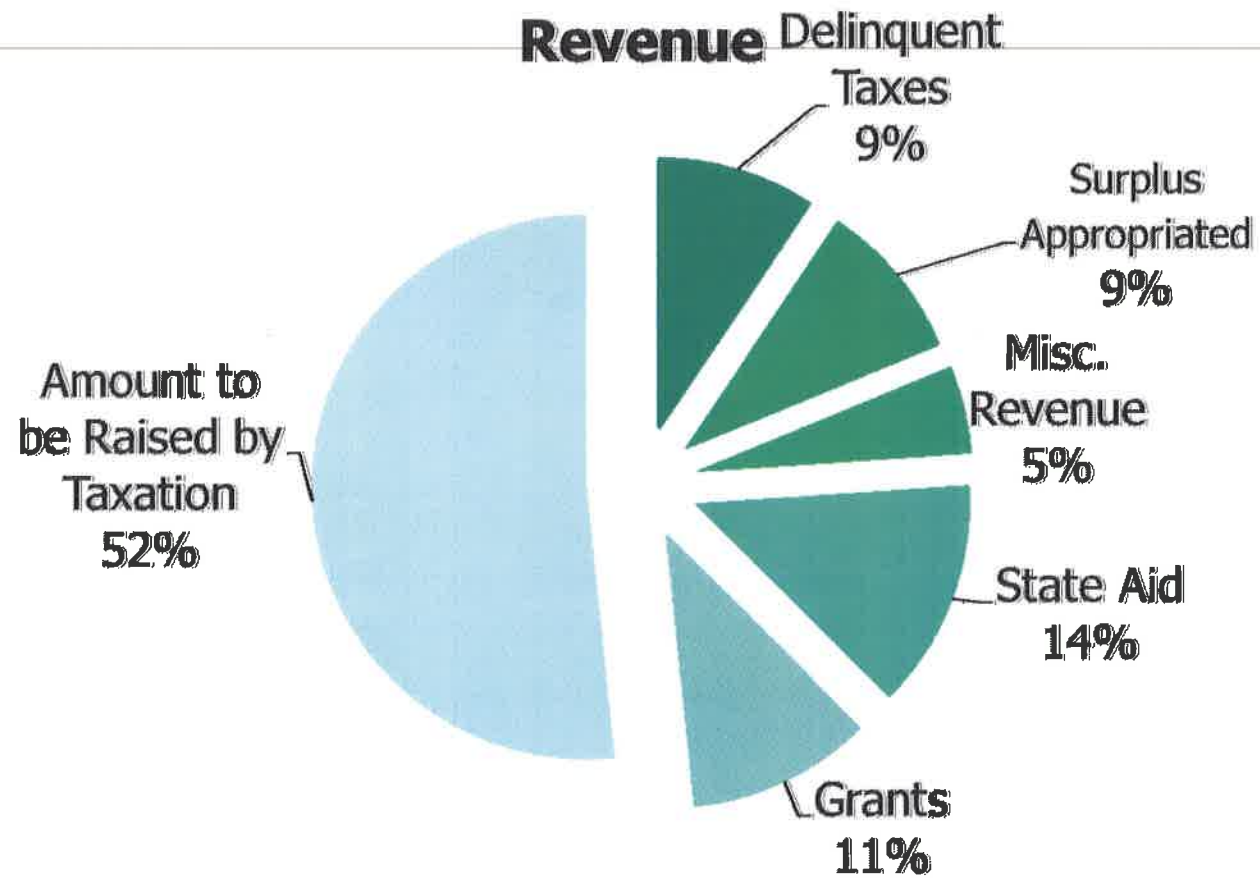
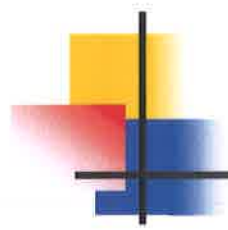
- Number of Homes

2020 - 1099
2019 - 1102
2018 - 1108
2017 - 1111
2016 - 1123
2015 - 1126

- Tax Collection %

2019 – 95.00
2018 – 94.62
2017 – 94.65
2016 – 95.25
2015 – 94.77
2014 – 94.35
2013 – 94.09
2012 – 93.46
2011 – 94.46
2010 – 93.68

2020 Revenue Breakdown

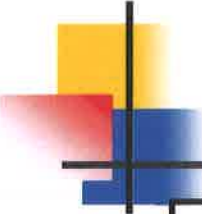




Schedule of Revenues


	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Taxes	1,227,003	1,208,434	1,138,113	1,090,502	1,069,308
State Aid	322,800	288,712	288,712	288,712	288,712
Misc.	122,396	122,396	122,339	114,530	116,530
Grants	258,329	47,749	311,985	42,970	236
Delinquent Taxes	222,100	222,100	222,100	244,800	261,800
Surplus Budgeted	224,350	209,600	205,700	183,000	164,000
Total	2,376,978	2,098,991	2,288,949	1,964,514	1,900,586

State Aid



	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
State Aid	322,800	288,712	288,712	288,712	288,712
Change from Prior Year	34,088	-----	-----	-----	-----
In 2007 State Aid was 437,395 114,595 Higher than 2020					

Budgets



	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Budget	2,376,978	2,098,991	2,288,949	1,964,514	1,900,586
Less Grants	258,329	51,749	311,985	46,970	4,236
Budget without Grants	2,118,649	2,047,242	1,976,964	1,917,544	1,896,350
Change from Prior Year	71,407	70,278	59,419	21,194	104,999

Budgets Continued

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Salary and Wages	470,728	430,753	430,370	416,569	403,889
Other Expenses	1,647,921	1,616,489	1,546,594	1,500,975	1,492,462
Total Budget (without grants)	2,118,649	2,047,242	1,976,964	1,917,544	1,896,350
Budgeted Salary Change	39,975 (+9.28%)	383 (+0.09%)	13,801 (+3.31%)	12,680 (+3.14%)	7,442 (+1.88%)
Above Less Transition Plan	39,975 -20,000				
Subtotal	19,975 (+4.63)				
Budgeted Other Expenses Change	31,432 (+1.94%)	69,895 (+4.52%)	45,618 (+3.04%)	8,514 (+0.57%)	97,557

Comparison of Major Appropriations

	2020	%	2019	%	2018	%	2017	%	2016	%
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	374,498	18%	363,258	18%	345,154	17%	334,872	17%	341,782	18%
Debt Service	192,385	9%	171,015	8%	130,605	7%	122,796	6%	106,515	6%
Convenience Center OE	118,700	6%	115,200	6%	111,200	6%	104,200	5%	104,200	5%
Capital Improvement Fund	100,000	5%	64,000	3%	120,000	6%	120,000	6%	100,000	5%
General Liability Insurance	80,000	4%	80,000	4%	80,000	4%	79,000	4%	76,000	4%
Workers Compensation Insurance	55,000	3%	55,000	3%	49,000	2%	49,000	3%	46,500	2%
Aid to Fire Company	55,000	3%	55,000	3%	55,000	3%	50,000	3%	50,000	3%
Aid to Rescue Squad	52,500	2%	52,500	3%	52,500	3%	50,000	3%	50,000	3%
Electricity	49,000	2%	49,000	2%	52,000	3%	55,000	3%	55,000	3%
Pension	31,190	1%	37,245	2%	34,616	2%	36,316	2%	34,941	2%
All Others	1,010,377	48%	1,005,024	49%	946,889	48%	916,360	48%	931,412	49%
Total Budget (without grants)	2,118,649		2,047,242		1,976,964		1,917,544		1,896,350	



Local Tax Rates & Local Taxes

Year	Average House	Tax Rate	Local Taxes	Tax Rate Increase	Local Taxes Increase
2020	170,000	0.531	903	0.010	17
2019	170,000	0.521	886	0.031	55
2018	170,000	0.489	831	0.022	37
2017	170,000	0.467	794	0.015	26
2016	170,000	0.452	768	0.041	70
2015	170,000	0.411	698	0.029	49
2014	170,000	0.382	649	0.016	28
2013	170,000	0.365	621	0.022	36
2012	170,000	0.344	585	0.020	34
2011	170,000	0.324	551	0.014	24
2010	170,000	0.310	527	revaluation	
\$376 over 10 years (average \$37.60 per year)					

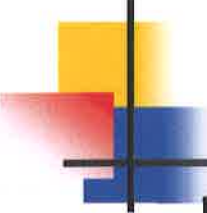
School/County (Combined) Tax Rates & Taxes

Year	Average House	County/School Tax Rate	County/School Taxes	County/School Rate Increase	County/School Taxes Increase
2019	170,000	2.294	3,900	0.086	146
2018	170,000	2.208	3,754	0.113	194
2017	170,000	2.094	3,560	0.102	173
2016	170,000	1.992	3,386	0.036	61
2015	170,000	1.956	3,325	0.066	112
2014	170,000	1.890	3,213	0.043	73
2013	170,000	1.847	3,140	0.013	22
2012	170,000	1.834	3,118	0.009	15
2011	170,000	1.825	3,103	0.097	165
2010	170,000	1.728	2,938	revaluation	
\$962 over 9 years (average \$106.89 per year)					

County/School/Local 2019 compared to 2018, Total tax dollars

	2019	2018	change	<u>per average home</u>
County	2,738,248	2,666,669	71,580	58
School	2,586,436	2,474,829	111,607	88
Local	1,208,434	1,138,113	70,321	55
Total Taxes	6,533,118	6,279,610	253,508	201

County/School/Local
2019 compared to 2018, Average Home Assessed at 170,000



	2019	2018	change
County	2,006	1,948	58
School	1,894	1,805	88
Local	886	831	55
Total Taxes	4,786	4,585	201



Factors on the Township's Tax Levy

- \$11,239 increase for Uncollectible Taxes
- \$-15,000 decrease of Architect Services (capital related)
- \$8,223 increase in Debt Service (note interest rate higher)
- \$-7,500 decrease for Engineering Services (capital related)
- \$36,000 increase in Capital Expenditures
 - (Improvements to Municipal Owned Properties and Radios/Antenna)
- \$20,000 increase for Salaries for transitioning of Employee
- \$18,445 increase All other line items not listed above
- \$71,407 Total of above