

June 2005

734-453-3840

www.plymouthtp.org

Charter Township of Plymouth

Police and Fire Millage Issue

A letter from the Board of Trustees About the 10-YEAR POLICE & FIRE MILLAGES

Dear Township Resident,

On Tuesday, August 2, 2005, voters in Plymouth Township will make a decision that affects every resident in the Township. The issue: Police and Fire funding and the passage of a ten year millage renewal and a ten year millage increase. The funds generated from both these millages can only be used for police and fire operations.

The Questions and Answers within this newsletter are designed to help you understand the issues and its impact on the future of Plymouth Township. Residents are encouraged to vote on these important ballot proposals regarding our Plymouth Township Police and Fire Departments and their essential work.

Polls will be open on August 2nd from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. You can also visit the Township Clerk's office to fill out an absentee ballot application if you expect to be absent from the community on Election Day. Whatever method you choose, become well-informed before you mark your ballot, then VOTE!



Plymouth Township Board of Trustees



Board of Trustees
Charter Township of Plymouth



Plymouth Community Firefighters are all certified in ALS (Advanced Life Support).



Police Officers and Firefighters participate in many community events such as this Bicycle Safety Rally to help educate children on safety issues.



The K-9 Unit is instrumental in conducting building and vehicle searches, and criminal apprehensions.

Questions and Answers regarding the Police and Fire Millage proposals

Q. How many Officers and Firefighters do we presently have compared to our neighbors?

A. Police Officers and Firefighter/Paramedics are typically evaluated in terms of how many are employed per 1000 residents in the community. From the chart below you can see that our Plymouth Township staffing levels are below the average when compared with our neighbors.

Police and Fire Personnel per 1000 Residents						
	City of Livonia	Northville Township	Canton Township	City of Plymouth	Plymouth Township	Average
POLICE						
Police Officers	151	33	81	15	31	
Population	100,545	25,608	84,278	9,022	28,045	
per 1000	1.50	1.29	0.96	1.66	1.11	1.30
FIRE						
Firefighters/Paramedics	82	22	54	Combined for Plymouth Community Fire Department	27	
Population	100,545	25,608	84,278		37,067*	
per 1000	.82	.85	.64		.73	.76

*this includes City and Township residents due to the combined Fire Department

Q. Why doesn't the Township just trim the fat?

A. The Township already has the lowest tax rate in Wayne County and therefore the smallest checkbook. Taking that into account, the Township has found ways to tighten our belts including cutting back in personnel and operations.

The Township has cut personnel with layoffs and positions remaining unfilled for employees that have retired. The purchases of materials for departments and the repairs on vehicles have been deferred. This has all happened without yet affecting police and fire services significantly.

Q. What is going to happen if the Renewal and Increase do not pass?

A. If both Millage Proposals fail and funding is cut, then Township administration will have insufficient funds to continue the present level of service. This means that decisions will have to be made about reducing police and fire staffing levels, closing a fire station thereby affecting response times, and eliminating repairs and replacement of ambulances, police vehicles and fire trucks.

Q. What if only one millage passes and the other fails?

A. Unfortunately, due to cuts in state funding, renewal alone would not be enough. If the increase does not pass, funding will be less and services will be fewer.

Q. What will the money from the Millage Proposals be used for?

A. The ballot language specifically states that the money from the millage proposals can only be used for police and fire services. This money is required just to maintain our current level day-to-day operations of the Police and Fire Departments.

Police and Fire Millage Ballot Language

Voters in Plymouth Township will have the opportunity to cast their vote on two important Police and Fire Millage proposals on the first Tuesday in August, which is **August 2, 2005**.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH POLICE AND FIRE MILLAGE RENEWAL

This is a renewal of police and fire millage being levied presently. Shall the previous voted 2.00 mill increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within the Charter Township of Plymouth which has been reduced by the required Headlee Amendment rollback to 1.6348 mills be renewed at 1.6348 mills (\$1.6348 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2006 through 2015, inclusive and the funds thereby derived to be used for police and fire services for the Charter Township of Plymouth, thereby raising in the first year \$3,094,012.97.

Yes No

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH POLICE AND FIRE MILLAGE INCREASE

Shall the tax limitation on general ad valorem taxes within the Charter Township of Plymouth imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution be increased for said Township by 0.5631 mills (\$0.5631 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2006 through 2015, inclusive, and the funds thereby derived to be used for police and fire services for the Charter Township of Plymouth, thereby raising in the first year \$1,065,720.

Yes No

Questions and Answers regarding the Police and Fire Millage proposals (cont.)

Q. What is the 10-year Police and Fire Millage Renewal?

A. Voters originally approved a 2-mil police and fire millage for the period of 1986 through 2005. This millage has now expired and will stop providing funding for our Police and Fire Departments unless voters renew it. This millage renewal represents 50% of the tax revenue received by the Township and is necessary to keep our essential level of police and fire services.

Q. What about the 10-Year Police and Fire Millage Increase?

A. The State of Michigan continues to cut funding to all local governments, including Plymouth Township. Our Police and Fire Departments spend your tax dollars with awareness for and accountability to its residents. But the fact remains there is less funding now and less is projected for the future which is the reason for this stabilization increase.

Q. Why this Millage Increase now?

A. The Police/Fire Departments represent 2/3rds of the money spent by the Township and have historically been subsidized over the years from other revenue sources. For example, in 2004 police and fire spending was \$8.3 million, while millage revenue was only \$4.3 million. State shared revenue payments and other revenues have made up those shortfalls over the years. Unfortunately, revenues have been and will continue to steadily decrease. State shared revenue payments continue to be cut or eliminated. The millage increase keeps police and fire services from being reduced.



The Plymouth Community Fire Department believes that educating people about home safety is an important part of the work they do.

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All right, what is the bottom line? What is the Renewal and Increase going to cost me?

The Renewal Millage proposal covers the Police/Fire millage that is already being levied and in fact has been levied for the past 20 years but that authorization has now expired. Therefore, for the renewal proposal there is no additional cost.

The average home in Plymouth Township has a property value of \$300,360 with an average "taxable value" of \$127,500. The cost to an average household for the Millage Increase proposal is about \$93 per year or \$7.75 per month.

Impact of Millage Increase—by Subdivision			
Subdivision	Average Property Value	Average Taxable Value	Annual Increase
Bradbury	\$126,180	\$51,553	\$37.66
Green Meadows	\$159,560	\$60,798	\$44.42
Lake Pointe	\$226,560	\$89,960	\$65.72
Westbriar	\$294,900	\$120,060	\$87.72
Trailwood	\$307,040	\$124,851	\$91.21
Average Twp. Home	\$300,360	\$127,500	\$93.00

Additional information that can help estimate your increase based on your homes location or its value can be found at the Plymouth Township web site. Log onto www.plymouthtwp.org.

Please remember to vote on August 2nd!