

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SAFETY SERVICES LEVY**

### **Why are the Trustees placing a Safety Services Levy on the ballot now?**

For years the Police Chief and Fire Chief have expressed concerns about the increasing demands for emergency services. In November of 2007, the Township Administration began a comprehensive analysis of the services provided to our residents and how those services compare to other communities in the region. Based on the results of this analysis, which were summarized at the August 11, 2008 Trustee's Meeting, the Trustees voted to put a \$1.9 mill Safety Services Levy on the November ballot. The Trustees feel that the public should have the right to decide if they want to increase the number of Police and Fire/Paramedic personnel to keep pace with the ever increasing demands for service.

### **Why not use the Township's TIF Funds for operating expenses?**

Under Ohio Law, TIF Funds cannot be used to pay for operating expenses, such as, salaries, liability insurance or utility costs. Taxes collected from the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Fund come directly to the Township and are shared with four school districts. Approximately 62% of all TIF dollars (an estimated \$10.6 Million in 2008) are distributed to the four school districts.

Under Ohio law, TIF dollars can only be used by the Township for Capital Improvement type expenses, such as roadway improvement, building renovation, fire trucks/equipment, and police cars/equipment. For example, the new Monfort Heights Fire Station on Audro Avenue was paid for completely with TIF Funds. Trustees have also used TIF dollars and Clean Ohio Funds to purchase park land and green space. Future park lands are an investment in the community for young families and for the leisure activities of mature adults. Some time in the future these new park lands will be considered a major asset in our community.

### **How do I know that the Township is being operated efficiently?**

Since 1994 Green Township voters have passed only one new Safety Services Levy. The Trustees have stretched operating dollars by maintaining conservative staffing levels and wise purchasing practices. Green Township operates at a cost of \$305 per person, which is by far the most efficient and lowest cost per capita of the largest townships in Southwestern Ohio. Green Township maintains the lowest effective tax rate of the eight largest Townships in Southwest Ohio.

### **What happens if the Safety Services Levy fails?**

If the Safety Services Levy fails this fall, the emergency response time for Firefighter/Paramedics and Police Officers may continue to decline. No new Police Officers or Firefighter/Paramedics will be hired, only replacement personnel will be added. If the Levy fails, the Township will be forced to make plans for reduced services in future years.

### **How much will a Safety Services Levy cost?**

The Levy will cost homeowners approximately \$56 annually per \$100,000 valuation. This works out to be less than 16 cents per day for the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 in Green Township.

Note: If you have other questions about the Safety Services Levy please call Trustee Winkler, Trustee Upton, Fire Chief Witsken, Police Chief West, or Township Administrator Kevin Celarek at 574-4848. Or e-mail us at [trustees@greentwp.org](mailto:trustees@greentwp.org). We welcome your questions.