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The following information was presented at the recent public meeting held to discuss the fire and EMS levy on the November 8th ballot. It is being presented here by request for those who were unable to attend the meeting. If you have specific questions that you would like to ask, please send an email to islandcreekfireems@gmail.com. Thank you.

Why Is the Levy Listed as an Additional Levy on the Ballot?

There are currently five different levies for Fire and/or EMS in Island Creek Township.

The new levy is a single levy so it cannot replace five other levies

The levies would have had to be replaced individually to be listed on the ballot as a replacement levy.

The trustees voted on October 11 to rescind the other levies by December 3 if the new levy pass so they won't be collected in 2023

The new levy amount would go into effect on January 1, 2023

How Are Property Taxes Calculated?

Property value is determined by the County Auditor through an appraisal every 6 years, an update every 3 years and an inspection of any additions or modifications to a property on an annual basis

Tax rates are determined by each community. Tax rates are expressed in terms of mills. One (1) mil of taxes is equal to \$1 tax per \$1000 of assessed property value.

You pay tax on the Assessed Value, which is 35% of the Appraised Value. The Assessed Value multiplied by the tax rate produces the tax due. \$100,000 assessed value pays based on \$35,000 taxable. So \$35,000 divided by 1000 times the 6 mills is \$210.00 per year.

The Homestead Exemption will reduce assessed value by \$25,000

Why Does the Amount Collected Not Increase?

In 1976, the legislature enacted property tax reform known as House Bill 920. The purpose was to keep inflation from increasing voted taxes.

When the voters approve a tax levy, they are agreeing to pay a certain amount of money for a specific purpose, over a given amount of time period. Each property owner pays their share, in proportion to the value of their property.

When property values increase due to inflation after a reappraisal or update, House Bill 920 kicks in.

The effective rate is the rate that is actually being collected based on the current property value.

What Does "Effective Rate" Do to Collections?

There are a total of 5 mills currently being collected from 5 levies

The total effective rate of the 5 levies is only 1.88

Several of the levies were passed in the 1970's and are under .20

If your property is valued at \$100,000 you are currently paying \$65.80 per year

Without House Bill 920, you would be paying \$175.00 per year

Public safety income from tax levies is NEVER ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION

What Do Others Pay In Our Area?

The Ohio Townships Association (OTA) uses a per person or "per capita" cost as a fair way to calculate the cost of providing for fire and EMS.

Island Creek currently pays \$37.51 per capita

Cross Creek and Wintersville pay \$106.94 per capita

Salem Township pays \$135.85 per capita

City of Steubenville pays \$170.84 per capita

The last cost per capita released by the OTA was \$83.00 but that was ten years ago. The new levy would bring the per capita to \$84.74 in Island Creek

How Will the Levy Money Be Divided?

2.5 mills will go towards EMS while 3.5 mills will go towards fire

Fire levy money will increase from \$267,033.00 to \$490,000.00
EMS levy money will increase from \$104,841 to \$350,000.00
The department Chiefs tentatively agreed to percentage distributions to each agency
Trustees will have a map connecting service areas to property maps
Distributions can then be adjusted so that each agency is paid for
who they protect for fire and EMS.
If response areas change the contracted amounts can be adjusted.

Fire Department Proposed Distribution

Pleasant Hill 41.50%
Pottery Addition 41.50%
Richmond 5.00%
Toronto To be determined by Trustees
Wintersville 12.00%

EMS Agency Proposed Distribution

Richmond 9.00%
Toronto 57.00%
Wintersville 35.00%

Cost of Being In The Emergency Business

Firefighter training is \$2,800.00 per firefighter for minimum level
Firefighter training is \$4,400.00 per firefighter to the professional level
EMT training is \$1,550.00 per EMT
Paramedic training is \$6,300.00 per Paramedic
Breathing apparatus is \$7,200.00 per firefighter/ minimum of ten units
Cardiac monitor required in each ALS ambulance is \$35,000.00
Ambulance with a 10 year lifespan is \$180,000.00
Fire engine with a 20 year lifespan is \$575,000.00
Ladder truck with a 20 year lifespan is \$1,100,000.00

Emergency Services Funding Issues

Tax income from contracts with political subdivisions are primary
Grants are difficult to obtain and usually cover only equipment
Fund raising is limited due to sufficient personnel and time to do it
EMS agencies can bill but current collectibles run around 35% to 40%
Borrowing for equipment purchases is based entirely on tax income
Ohio is one of a few states that does not share fire insurance money
Depletion of volunteers and customer demands for prompt service have resulted in the demand for
staffed stations, thus increasing costs.
Just like for you, diesel, natural gas, and supplies are skyrocketing...