

Delhi Township is a ten square mile community of thirty thousand residents located immediately west of Cincinnati with minimal business or commercial facilities. Our recent history has provided Delhi Township with firsthand knowledge of the impact to our residents when we do not have enough income to support the service levels our residents have come to expect.

Following the failure of a police and a fire levy in 2004, Delhi Township was forced to reexamine itself and its service levels. An analysis of our projected income and expenses for the ensuing years and an evaluation of the level of safety services we could provide were used to construct two lesser valued levies. These levies passed in 2005 and allowed for a phased in return to reduced levels of safety services.

Since then expenses have been periodically reviewed to determine if they can be reduced or eliminated. The same holds true for staffing levels. Delhi Township has learned, and managed, to operate effectively at a peak efficiency level and provide its residents with the services they desire at a cost they are willing to pay.

The year 2007 was the first full year of operations following the passage of the revised levies. Using that as the base year, overall operating expenses have grown at an annualized rate of 1.5%, a moderate expense growth rate. Considering that during that same period payroll expense, due primarily to existing contractual obligations, increased at an annualized rate of 3%, indicates that non-payroll related expenses have actually decreased. Levels of services provided have remained consistent throughout this period.

Phrased succinctly, Delhi Township is currently able to live within its means. We are, however, seriously concerned about our ability to continue to do so in view of changes being discussed.

Local Government Fund and Estate Tax revenues account for almost 60% of Delhi Township's General Fund revenue. Some of the expenses paid from the General Fund include:

- salaries and benefits for vehicle mechanics who extend the life of Township fire, police and maintenance vehicles and equipment thereby enhancing response reliability while also deferring similar major purchases
- funding of the Development Services department responsible for zoning and nuisance enforcement which directly impacts the quality of life
- funding for technology personnel salaries and benefits, computer equipment and related maintenance for all Township departments which allows for more efficient operations
- operational expenses of our Senior Citizen center which directly impacts the quality of life of our senior population
- subsidizing of the Parks & Recreation department which assist in providing residents with a variety of recreational and exercise options

Any reduction or elimination of one or both of these revenue sources without a replacement revenue source would have a catastrophic impact on Delhi Township. Had Delhi Township not received the amount of revenue equivalent to that of the Estate Tax starting with our renaissance in 2005, even with the reductions in service levels and personnel and the expense controls that have taken place since then, Delhi Township would have been bankrupt last year.

Delhi Township asks that you consider the impact upon the continued existence all local governments whenever discussing or voting upon any issue relating to revenue reductions.