

## **BUDGET MESSAGE TO THE CITIZENS OF WAYNE TOWNSHIP:**

The Board of Supervisors has proposed a 2009 budget with no tax increase. Total expenditures are estimated at \$604,730. These expenditures include the General, Liquid Fuels, Sewer, Light, and Capital Reserve Funds. Fund reserves will total \$436,885. Permanent employees will see a 2% cost of living wage increase in 2009. Although diesel fuel costs have recently decreased, the proposed budget anticipates a return to higher prices in 2009. We have also been faced with a 40% increase in winter salt prices. We will experience a 23% increase in health insurance premiums for our full time employees. On the positive side, the premium still remains well under those paid in 2007.

The biggest item in the 2009 budget is the asphalt surfacing of Sciota Street from Sciota Road to the current blacktop surface at Plastics Road. We are pursuing this project in cooperation with the Corry Area Industrial Development Corporation (CAIDC). We are optimistic that CAIDC will obtain grant funding for half of the \$110,000 price tag leaving the township with a construction cost of \$55,000.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2008:**

A number of road projects were completed in 2008. The guys completed a second Dirt & Gravel Road Grant project ...this time on Wheelock Road. This project successfully reduced roadside erosion and waterway pollution, and widened the roadway. Guiderails were installed on Stateline & Crosscut Roads. French drains were installed on Proctor, Turnpike (west of Route 89), and Simmons Roads. 1000 feet of geotextile was also installed on Simmons Road with 12" gravel overlay. These projects will improved subsurface drainage and hopefully eliminate the annual springtime deterioration of these roadways. If successful, additional stretches of township roadway will receive the geotextile treatment in the future.

With use of the NW PA Council of Government's jointly owned bucket truck and chipper, the road department aggressively pursued tree trimming along the township road system this fall. The time spent was rewarded during the first heavy snow event. While many municipalities struggled with downed branches, we only had to deal with a minimal amount of debris.

Thanks to a \$5000 grant through Rep. Sonney, the last 1970's furnace in the municipal building/garage was also replaced before winter.

## **GOALS FOR 2009:**

All current services will be maintained in 2009. The annual tire collection is scheduled at the EBHC parking lot for the first weekend in June. Gravel reconstruction of 1-2 miles of township roads will continue. The township has again budgeted an annual transfer of monies from the General Fund to the Equipment and Asphalt Capital Reserve Funds.

Construction of a new salt shed is eagerly anticipated for 2009. We have waited many months for an ordered structure to be delivered. And our hope to at least begin the foundation this fall was then waylaid by the weather.

The big ticket item for 2009 is the anticipated paving of Sciota Street from Sciota Road to the paved portion maintained by the City of Corry. We are hopeful that CAIDC will be able to obtain grant funding for half of the \$110,000 price tag leaving the township with a construction cost of \$55,000. In recent years, this stretch of road has seen increased car and truck traffic and has become difficult to adequately maintain as a gravel road.

### **2009 GENERAL FUND:**

Total projected general fund revenue is \$375,720 for 2009. The Earned Income Tax continues to be the major source of revenue for the General Fund, accounting for nearly 32% of the revenues. Projections for this revenue are significantly less due to the local job market. The township anticipates no more than 2% interest from investments in 2009. The real estate tax rate will remain at 1.5 mills. A resident with a \$100,000 assessment will pay \$150 in 2009.

Expenses are projected at \$446,245 in 2009...the major cost item being the proposed paving of Sciota Street. We have also budgeted for a return to higher fuel costs.

### **2009 LIQUID FUELS FUND:**

Our Liquid fuels allocation is projected to be \$3585 lower in 2009. Funding is received from the state based on road miles and population. The amount available for distribution is determined by taxes collected on fuel purchases. The high cost of motor fuel in 2008 resulted in fewer gallons being purchased, and ultimately fewer taxes being collected. In 2009 the township anticipates receiving \$89,915 in Liquid Fuels funds from the Commonwealth. This fund supports street and road maintenance and pays for the majority of snow removal and summer road maintenance activities.

### **2009 SEWER FUND:**

The Sewer Fund is an enterprise fund that charges for a service provided. The intent is to recover the costs of providing the service on a continuing basis through user charges. No increase in sewer rates is proposed in 2009. Treatment charges will increase, but our share for the debt service on the Corry Wastewater Treatment Plant will again decrease in 2009. We have seen a continued reduction in electric costs for pump station operation with the replacement of all pumps for W. Smith Street/ Route 6 system. We annually pay \$32,000 in debt service on a 20-year loan from Pennvest. These funds were used to construct the Wayne Township sewer collection system. Currently, no rate increase is projected for Wayne Township sewer customers.

### **2009 STREET LIGHT FUND:**

The Street Light Fund is a special purpose governmental fund that maintains street lights in two neighborhoods in the township. The properties benefiting from these lights pay an assessment that covers the electric costs. In 2009 these rates will remain unchanged. Beaverdam residents will pay \$ .23 per frontage foot. Hillcrest residents will continue to pay \$ .28/foot.

### **2009 CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS**

The Township maintains five capital reserve funds for future large ticket purchases or projects. These include Equipment Purchase, Asphalt Maintenance, Sciota Street Paving, Waterline Installation, and Jim Brown Bridge Repairs. In 2009, \$25,000 will be transferred to the Equipment fund from the General Fund; and \$12,000 to Asphalt Maintenance. With the proposed paving of Sciota Street, the \$26,000 in that reserve fund will be transferred to the General fund for that intended capital project.