

Olmsted Township



Established 1814

www.olmstedtownship.org

26900 Cook Road • Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138

Olmsted Township "A Community of Diverse Neighborhoods"

Winter 2014

Olmsted Township Faces Tough Decisions

The failure of Issue 76, a 4-mill operations levy, this past November was a significant setback for our community. It is now time for us to move forward together and decide the best ways to keep Olmsted Township a desirable place to live and work.

With the current financial realities we face, Olmsted Township will not be able to maintain the same level of services currently provided. We will also not be able to address flooding and storm-water problems, ditch and waterway dredging, significant road maintenance, and the purchase of equipment for safety forces that keeps employees safe and the community well served.

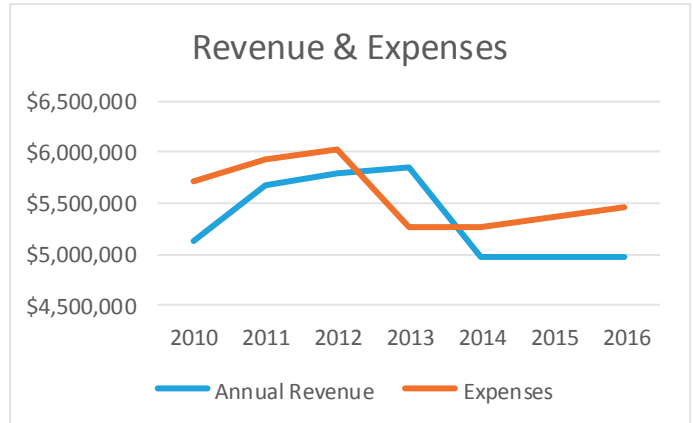
The Township Trustees have and will continue to look for ways to reduce costs and maintain efficiency in order to save taxpayer dollars, but we must make tough decisions to ensure a bright future for our community.

We need your help. In an effort to find out what our residents value most about Olmsted Township, we will be gathering input from our community members over the course of the next six weeks. Your opinions and concerns are very important to our long-term success, so your participation in this process is essential.

Please visit www.olmstedtownship.org to provide feedback through our online survey. To participate, simply click the link, which will be active until March 1. We will compile all feedback and report the results back to our community in March.

If you do not have access to a computer but wish to participate, please go to the Olmsted Township Police Station, pick up a survey, complete it and return it to the Police Station. If you have questions or want to talk with one of the Trustees, please call 440-235-3051.

2014 Deficit: How Did We Get Here?



Our Township's current financial situation did not develop overnight. Since 2000, Olmsted Township experienced an unprecedented 23% growth in population, the third-highest increase in Cuyahoga County. While new residents are a welcome addition, our capacity to meet the needs of our growing community poses a significant challenge because our revenue remains flat.

In addition, with new county regulations, we are now responsible for double the number of roads we maintain - 44 miles of county and township roads.

Our growth is coupled with new financial realities. Starting Jan. 1, 2014, Olmsted Township lost over \$1 million in state funding. This loss is more than 18% of our general fund budget. It is also funding that is not likely to return.

(Cont. on page 2)

Departments

Police
440-235-3335

Fire
440-235-3746

Public Service
440-235-1011

Building
440-235-4225

Fiscal Officer
440-235-3099

Town Hall
440-235-3051

Trustee Office
440-793-6950

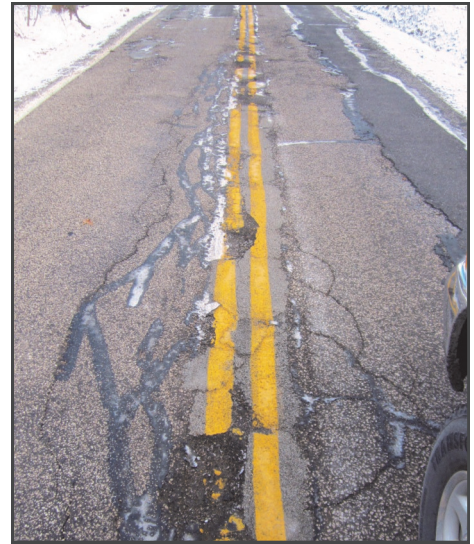
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2014 Deficit: How Did We Get Here? (from page 1)

We've worked hard to make cuts and find efficiencies to maximize tax dollars.

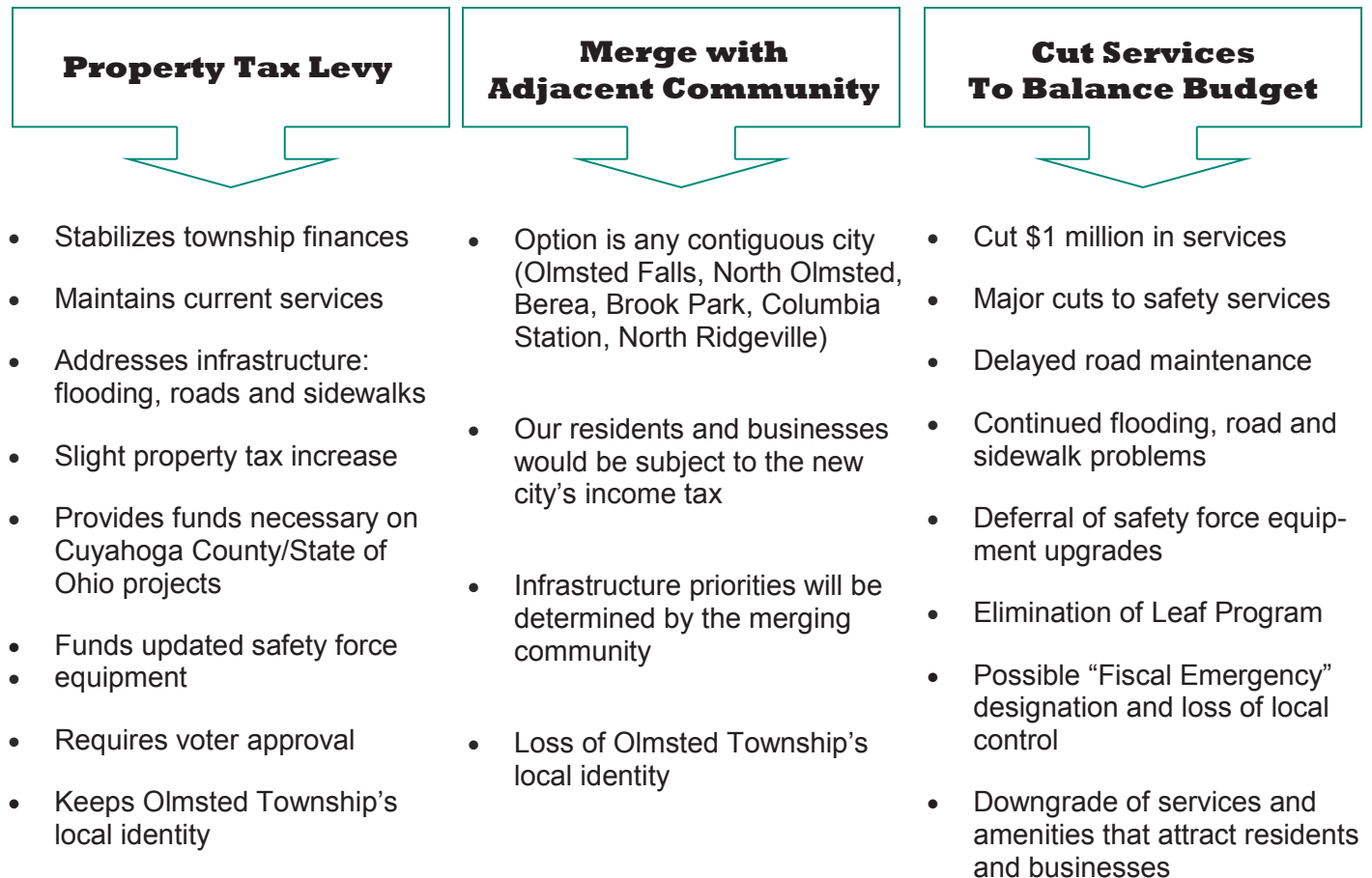
- Reduced healthcare costs by \$500,000 by changing providers and requiring all employees to contribute more.
- Slashed our workers' compensation premium by 75% through process improvement.
- Reduced insurance premiums by 50% by joining a consortium.
- Instituted a central purchasing system to ensure efficiency.
- Changed phone plans saving over \$7,000.
- Significantly reduced overtime.
- Updated guidelines for senior transportation saving \$25,000.
- Deferred replacing police cruisers and Kevlar vests.
- Deferred updating fire department equipment.



We will continue to be vigilant and identify ways to reduce costs to save taxpayers money. However, our financial situation means the programs and services that make Olmsted Township a desirable place to live and work are in jeopardy. Without changes, our Township's coffers will soon run dry. If this happens, the Ohio Auditor could place the Township in "Fiscal Emergency" and assume control of our spending and services.

We cannot let that happen, and therefore must make important decisions about our future now.

Olmsted Township: Our Options Moving Forward



New Year Rings in Changes to Board of Trustees

We welcome Tiffany Fischbach to the Olmsted Township Board of Trustees. Trustee Fischbach, 31, was elected to the four-year position in November and sworn in on Jan. 1, along with incumbent Trustee Sherri Lippus, re-elected to a second term. Fischbach is an attorney and former assistant prosecutor. She lives on Glenside Lane with her husband, Justin, and daughter, Lillian, 1. Trustee Fischbach replaces Trustee Scott Ross, who was appointed in early 2013 to fill a vacancy and did not seek election. Ross, who has extensive experience in both the public and private sector, was a key player on the board and was honored with a proclamation in December.



Olmsted Township Trustees Jeanene Kress, Sherri Lippus and Tiffany Fischbach



Shopping Shuttle Starts Soon

We will offer a Shopping Shuttle through the Senior Transportation Connection beginning Feb. 1. The Shuttle goes to Marc's on Monday/Thursday, Giant Eagle on Wednesday/Friday, and Walmart on Friday. A shuttle to Great Northern Mall is also under consideration. Cost to you for this door-to-door service is \$5 each way. You must register to be eligible for this service; there is no cost to register. To get all information, call 216-265-4101.

Leaf Collection: A Success!

The Leaf Collection Pilot Program was a great success. More than 2,000 cubic yards of loose leaves were collected from township treelawns, and we were under the budgeted amount for the program. The Trustees will evaluate the program, costs and ways to improve the program for next year.



News From the Police and Fire Departments

Did you know...

- **In an emergency, you should try to place your 911 call from a landline?** Doing so eliminates the need for a dispatcher to identify your location. Speak clearly and slowly, and spell your name and street address, if necessary. Identify "Olmsted Township," especially if you are calling from a cell phone. These measures will save precious time and maybe a life.
- **Your address should be clearly visible on your roadside mailbox and on your home?** This is critical for our safety forces should you need help. It is also required by the township's Fire and Building Codes.
- **The Fire Department responded to 1,490 EMS calls, 381 fire-related calls and 196 service calls in 2013.**
- **Police Lieutenant Matthew Vanyo has been accepted to the prestigious FBI Academy in Quantico, W. Va.** Lt. Vanyo, who will attend from April through June, will receive about 15 hours of graduate-level coursework in Leadership, Management, Supervision, Labor Laws, Investigative Techniques, and Physical Education through the University of Virginia with about 200 other candidates. Lt. Vanyo will be the second command-officer from the department to attend the academy, following in the footsteps of Chief John Minek in 2004. A nomination to attend the Academy can take two to five years.

See our website at www.olmstedtownship.org for the most current information. Remember to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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Merchants Bring Holiday Spirit to Town Hall

Sincere thanks to the local merchants who supported our 2nd Annual Holiday Tree project. The trees that mark the location of Town Hall are a source of pride in our community and lend a festive air during this special season. Sincere thanks to Bruno's Landscaping, Donauschwaben-German American Cultural Center, Frank and Diana Pojman, Halls Brothers, Olmsted Ice, Olmsted Laserwash, Olmsted Laundromat, Razzles, Swings N Things and Vitamix.



Please remember to take our township survey by March 1. You can take the survey one of two ways:



Online: www.olmstedtownship.org

In person: Olmsted Township Police Department (Cook and Fitch Roads)

Olmsted Township Board of Trustees meetings are the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 26900 Cook Road. All meetings are posted on the Township calendar.