

Township Budget for 2011
by John Jarecki

At a special meeting on December 15, the Township Commissioners approved a budget for 2011. The budget is divided into four major parts, for which revenue and expenses are listed in the following table.

	Revenue	Expenses
General Budget	\$ 693,690	\$ 690,986
Refuse Budget	\$ 330,525	\$ 328,638
Recycling Budget	\$ 50,850	\$ 48,268
Liquid Fuels Budget	\$ 93,700	\$ 93,000
Total	\$1,168,765	\$1,160,892

For the budget as a whole, the five largest sources of revenue are the following.

Refuse and Recycling Fees	\$ 381,375
Real Estate Tax	245,000
Earned Income Tax	250,000
Liquid Fuels Payment from State	93,000
State Shared Revenue	46,400

This amounts to about 87% of total income. The largest source of revenue, refuse and recycling fees, consists of a refuse fee of \$195 per household and a recycling fee of \$30 per household. The real estate or property tax is at a rate of 1.95 mills (a mill is \$1 in taxes per \$1000 of property value), and the earned income tax is at a rate of 1 percent.

Real estate tax revenue has risen about 30 percent over the last five years, which is the mainly the result of the property tax increase of .5 mills that took effect in 2010. State shared revenue is only a third of what it was five years ago, which is not surprising considering the financial problems of the state.

The six largest expenditures from the general budget can be put into the following categories.

Refuse Collection	\$ 289,440
Fire Department	165,813
Police Department	147,991
Employee Fringe Benefits	129,853
Street Department	74,418
General Government	72,311

These categories amount to about 75% of total expenses. The largest expenditure, refuse collection, has increased by about 8 percent over the last five years. The Fire, Police, and Street Department expenses have increased an average of about 15 percent, and general government expenses have decreased by about 9 percent, both over the same period.