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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Township seeking 8.25-mill renewal levy in March

Dublin, OH- Washington Township Trustees voted November 12, 2019 to place a five-year, 8.25 levy on the March ballot. The proposed levy would renew an existing five-year levy that voters passed in 2015 to support Washington Township's Fire Department.

If approved by voters, the cost of the levy for a property owner would be approximately \$226.06 per \$100,000 valuation, resulting in no tax increase.

The levy, if passed, is expected to generate \$17.33 million annually, 84% of the department's anticipated budget. The remaining 16% of the budget is covered by small permanent levies, current savings, fees for services, grants and revenue sharing from the State of Ohio.

Funds generated by the levy will be used for day-to-day operations, safety equipment and supplies, fire station maintenance and updates, administrative functions, and capital equipment including emergency vehicles.

To help offset increases in costs, the Trustees adopted EMS billing in 2017. This program allows EMS transport providers like Washington Township to bill patients' health insurance providers for EMS transport services used. Payments received to date have exceeded \$2.7 million, all of which is earmarked for expenses related to EMS staff, equipment and supplies. "This revenue has made it possible for us to keep up with cost increases associated with providing emergency transport," said Fire Chief Alec O'Connell.

By pursuing a renewal rather than a replacement levy, the township will be able to preserve the rollback tax equivalency payments it is eligible for from the State of Ohio. A replacement levy would have required the Township to relinquish this funding, thereby increasing the tax burden on Township residents.

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