

The Claridon Community Brief

July, 2021, Issue 2



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Greetings Claridon!

On behalf of Trustees Mr. Roger Miller, Mr. Cooper Sherman and Mr. Jonathan Tiber and Fiscal Officer Ms. Paula Jolly, welcome to the Claridon Community Brief!

We welcome your feedback and input.
Please don't hesitate to contact any
Trustee should you have questions, concerns or insights.

The Claridon Community Brief is a great way to communicate about our township. Feel free to invite other Claridon residents to get 'in the know'!

Interested residents can simply email me to sign up.

Trustee Jonathan Tiber JTiber@ClaridonTownship.com.

If you are getting this email in error or wish not to receive them,
Please email me and I will be happy to remove you from our list.

Thank you for signing up!

-Jonathan Tiber

FUN WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

Claridon Events Group.

- This group will help organize Claridon events such as ‘Get Down With The Town’, Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony and others.

Cemetery Restoration, Preservation & Beautification Group.

- This group will aid in the beautification, restoration and preservation of our three cemeteries.

Claridon History Group

- This group will research and provide Claridon history, help create a hard copy history space in one of our buildings and provide content on our website.

Do you love Claridon?!

Interested in getting involved or learning more?!

Did you just say, “Maybe”? :))

Trustee Jonathan Tiber is standing by to receive your call at 216-276-8342

'GET DOWN WITH THE TOWN'!

Community Gathering - Sunday Aug. 1

5-8 PM

At Recreation Park



**Music, Food,
Games
Give-Aways
Claridon History
and MORE**

Claridon. Ohio

Our first annual 'Get Down With The Town' community gathering
Presented by Claridon Township and Claridon Community helps
IS

Sunday evening, August 1 from 5:00p to 8:00p
Claridon Recreation Park on 608 (across from Stillwell Road).

Join us for an evening of fun and music!

Come enjoy the music, food truck, games, Claridon history and give-a-ways.
The entire Claridon team is looking forward to seeing our community there!

The underlying purpose for this event is to bring Claridon closer together.
To promote the 'old school' sense of community built on folks who know and look
out for each other.

Let's make this a successful event as we expect it to grow significantly in the
upcoming years.

See you there!

Proposed Road Levy

Your current Board of Trustees are not in favor of asking residents for revenue via tax levies. We believe a municipality should only receive what is needed to reasonably maintain our roads, cemeteries, parks and buildings.

For this reason, we've worked diligently to reduce expenditures and hold off on proposing a road levy as long as possible. We are proud of the fact that of the 16 Townships in Geauga County, Claridon easily ranks last in tax levy revenue when it comes to Township maintenance. It is a testament to the current board, previous boards and you, the resident. We have stayed within our means however, the time has come where we can no longer afford to maintain our roads based on 1992 costs. That was the last and only time a road levy was passed. The levy collects approximately \$85,000 annually and was based on the cost of doing business in 1992. It is easy to recognize how dramatically the costs of goods and labor have increased in the last 30 years.

We have worked for more than 3 years to cut expenses and devise better efficiency through the initiatives below:

- Switching internet and phone carriers
- Eliminating unnecessary phone lines
- Changing disposable waste carriers
- Eliminating the IT position (trustees now handle that themselves)
- All cemetery gravestone restoration in is done in house through our maintenance department
- Seeking grant money
- Creating maintenance efficiency strategies and standards
- Transferring maintenance, material and labor of our baseball/softball fields to the leagues that utilize them
- And much more

The Claridon Board of Trustees, after being advised, determined our current tax revenue is insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of our Township roads and find it necessary to propose a new levy for the purpose of maintaining our aging roads.

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The proposed levy is a 5-year, 1.76 mill levy which will collect, presuming a 95% collection rate, \$132,911 annually. It will cost approximately \$61 per \$100,000 property value. The Township was counseled to make this levy continuous; however, your current board of Trustees do not generally believe in 'forever' taxes. Initiating a 5-year levy allows residents to hold the board accountable for how they spend this revenue. If the board is spending the revenue wisely and diligently, you, the resident, may approve it again in 5 years. If the board is spending the revenue unwisely, you, the resident, hold the power to say 'no' in 5 years. This creates transparency and gives residents the opportunity to give the Trustees a chance to see how they spend these much needed funds.

HOW DID WE DETERMINE THE LEVY AMOUNT?

Claridon voters passed a 5-year, 2.3 mill Fire Levy in 2018. This was necessary to cover costs of our township fire/EMS contracts which increased by about 5% per year. On the same ballot, voters renewed an existing 2012 Fire Levy and made it continuous in order to forever preserve a 12% State Credit for homeowners which means the State of Ohio pays 12% of your share of the 2012 Fire Levy.

The Trustees, not knowing if voters would renew the 2012 levy, made sure the new 2018 Fire levy amount covered the cost of the 2012 Fire Levy. The Trustees said if the voters pass both the new 2018 Fire Levy AND renew the 2012 Fire Levy (in order to preserve the 12% state credit), they would reduce the collection of the 2018 Fire Levy and only collect what was necessary. The Trustees followed through on that promise and reduced collection of the 2018 Fire Levy from 2.3 mill to .54 mill. lowering the levy by 1.76 mill. That's why the current proposed Road & Bridge Levy is 1.76 mill.

The Township will still be under the standard collection rate of revenue per mile of roads (Claridon has 14.25 miles of roads), however, we have determined we can still reasonably maintain our roads nonetheless. This proposal will be on the ballot this upcoming November.

If you have any questions or would like further explanation, please don't hesitate to call Trustee Jonathan Tiber. His number is on the Township website.

ALL CURRENT TOWNSHIP LEVIES

The Township collects on four levies. Three levies are for Fire & EMS coverage and only one for roads. The three levies simply cover Fire & EMS coverage provided by both Chardon and Burton Fire departments. You will notice the broad difference between what we collect in levies for Township maintenance versus Fire & EMS coverage. The below collection rates reflect 100% collection.

1992 - 2.4 mill continuous Road Levy:	\$89,333
2005 - 2.0 mill 5-year Fire Levy:	\$147,241
2012 - 1.75 mill continuous Fire Levy:	\$145,651
2018 - 2.3 mill 5-year Fire levy <u>reduced to .54 mill:</u>	\$ 45,055

Total sum collected for Fire/EMS levies:	\$337,947
Total sum collected for road levies:	<u>\$89,333</u>
Total sum collected for all Township levies:	\$427,280

OUR FIRE/EMS CONTRACTS

The **current** contracts we have with Chardon Fire Department (which covers about 60% of the Township) and Burton Fire Department (which covers about 40% of the Township) are due to expire December 31, 2021. Below are Claridon's cost of the current contracts (rounded to the nearest dollar). Chardon Fire allows us to collect EMS reimbursements. The reimbursements we receive usually range between \$20,000 and \$40,000 annually. In order to reduce levy amounts, Township trustees and fiscal include these reimbursements when the last levy was proposed in 2018. There will not be a Fire/EMS levy on the November ballot this year.

The **proposed** contract **costs** from the fire departments are also listed below. Chardon Fire is very transparent when presenting their numbers. Chief Gasper and his staff always provide the 'why' via graphs, charts and projections. Year one is a decrease, years two and three represent a near 5% increase.

Burton Fire has not officially submitted, in writing, their proposed contract costs however, based on verbal conversations, we anticipate they will ask for a 62% increase therefore, 62% is reflected under the Burton Fire column. Please contact Trustee Cooper Sherman or Jonathan Tiber if you have any questions, concerns, insights or thoughts regarding these proposed costs as contracts have not yet been signed at the time of this post.

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Chardon Fire</u>	<u>Burton Fire</u>	<u>Total</u>
Current contract:	2019:	\$262,168	\$113,599	\$375,767
Current contract:	2020	\$273,352	\$121,273	\$394,625
Current contract:	2021	\$284,198	\$127,337	\$411,535
Proposed:	2022	\$280,703	\$206,286	\$486,989
Proposed:	2023	\$294,637	\$206,286	\$500,923
Proposed:	2024	\$309,239	\$206,286	\$515,525

**Thank you for subscribing to the Claridon Community Brief!
See you at the community gathering on August 1!**