

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dear Neighbors,

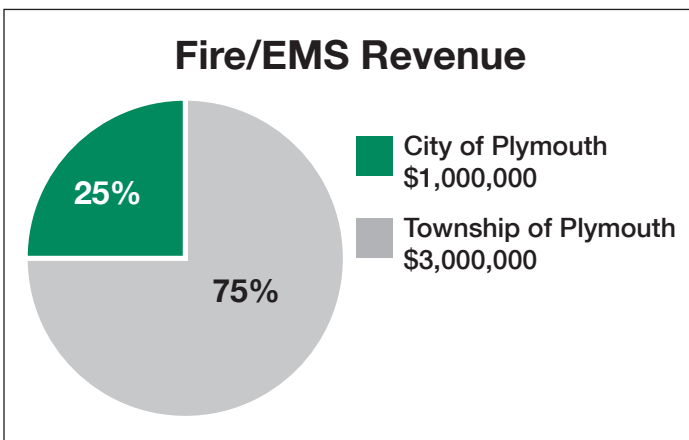
As the Township gets closer to a final decision regarding our Fire and Emergency Medical Services, we feel it is important to give you an update on the latest developments. The City of Plymouth gave Plymouth Township official notice they will be terminating participation in the joint Plymouth Community Fire Department (PCFD) effective December 31, 2011.

Your safety is our top priority, and we WILL maintain fire and emergency services

The safety and welfare of every Plymouth Township resident is our highest priority, and we will NOT put that at risk. Please remember that we also live here and we would never put our own families at risk. We will continue to provide Fire, Emergency Medical Support (EMS) service with Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedics. In fact, it is our goal to provide equal or even better Fire and EMS coverage to residents, with the funding available.

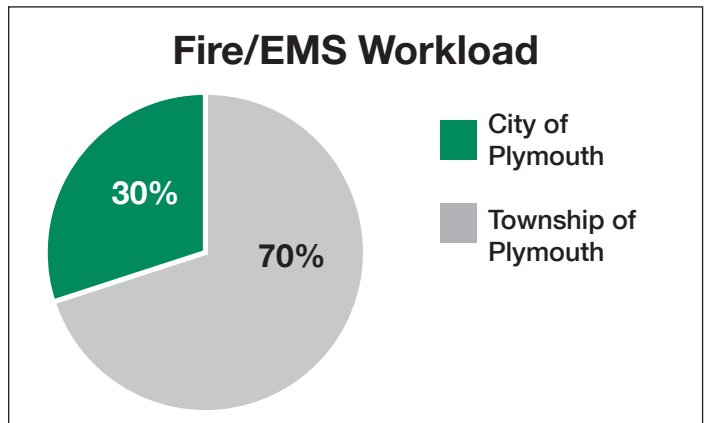
Fire/EMS revenue reduction

When the City of Plymouth chose not to renew its joint Fire Department agreement with the Township, we were left with a shortfall of roughly \$1,000,000 in revenue, which represents 25% of the total Fire Department budget. And we will still be facing this \$1,000,000 shortfall as of January 1, 2012.



Fire/EMS workload also reduced

Beginning January 1, 2012, the Township Fire Department will no longer be responding to City of Plymouth Fire and EMS calls. With this change, the Fire and EMS workload will be reduced by roughly 30%.



What is the action plan to address these changes?

We will initially offer the same service delivery model as we have since 1985 when answering all fire and EMS calls. This will actually be the same model used for the 10 years prior to the shared services agreement with the City of Plymouth in 1995 and continued during the 16 years of the joint Plymouth Community Fire Department. Since the shared services agreement will end December 31, 2011, the Township will need to "right size" based on the new Fire Department workload and revenue.

Please look inside for more details on these issues. I encourage you to review this closely, as the decisions we make are important to our community. I also welcome your feedback, suggestions and questions.

Sincerely,

Richard Reaume

Richard Reaume
Township Supervisor

Current Situation

Shared sacrifice among most Township employees

We also want you to know that almost all Township department employees have made sacrifices to help offset the financial challenges facing everyone in the Township. For example, over the past two years, every Township employee has accepted wage and benefit concessions – with the exception of the Firefighters union. These concessions range from 5-10% pay cuts among union and non-union employees (including elected officials) and increases in employee and retiree healthcare premium sharing.

Did You Know...

The Plymouth Township Firefighter staff is the highest paid department at the Township. Average compensation levels are listed below for the three Firefighter job classifications:

Firefighter Classifications	2010 Average Total Cash Compensation	2010 Compensation with Fringe Benefits
Fire Captains	\$98,290	\$136,751
Fire Lieutenants	\$92,990	\$129,162
Firefighters	\$79,027	\$108,969

Firefighter Hours – Township Firefighters work **24 hour shifts 9.3 days per month**, with **roughly 21 days off each month**. In addition, there is **no work duties scheduled evenings, Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays**.

Average Number of Fire and EMS Runs per Year – In 2010, there were 2,281 fire and EMS-related runs in Plymouth Township, or an average of just **2 per day among three Fire Stations**.

Firefighter Retiree/Legacy Costs – Township Firefighters can retire after **25 years at 70% of their pay**, and 28.5 years at **80% of their pay**. Township Firefighter retirees also continue to receive **free lifetime health, dental and optical coverage** for themselves and their spouse and **pay no out-of-pocket premium sharing costs**. The total of these “legacy” costs is **expected to be \$13,500,000**.

Staffing and Workload

When Plymouth City and Plymouth Township merged their two fire departments in 1995 the City combined their six firefighters with the Township’s 15 firefighters. The Township operates this joint Fire Department with a staff of 21 responding to Fire and Emergency service calls. This level of staffing includes 30% of all runs being made within the City of Plymouth.

Beginning January 1, 2012, the Township Fire Department will no longer be responding to City of Plymouth Fire and EMS calls. With this change, the Fire and EMS workload will be reduced by roughly 30%.

Fire and EMS Delivery Model

Although the budget and workload will be reduced, we will initially offer the same delivery model we have used since 1985 when responding to Fire and EMS calls. The Township believes this is our best option at this time in regards to resident welfare as well as fiscal responsibility.

DID YOU KNOW?

Plymouth Township Firefighters and Huron Valley Ambulance Paramedics have the same state certifications and training, the same computers and equipment on board, the same medical supplies and lifesaving medications, plus they provide the same level of quality care and service. In addition, all Township Firefighters are trained by the same instructors as Huron Valley Ambulance Paramedics.

Special Assessment District (SAD) Tax Increase

What is a Special Assessment District (SAD) tax?

A township may create a special assessment tax district and provide annually for the collection of funds for equipment, maintenance and operation of fire departments.

Can citizens petition to create a SAD?

According to Michigan Law (MCL 41.801) SAD's for Fire purposes states that if a minimum of 10% of the Township's property owners sign a petition, it will be placed on an a ballot to be decided upon by Township voters. A petition was recently submitted by a Township citizens group to add this to an upcoming ballot.

Was the minimum percentage of signatures from land owners provided in the SAD petition?

A Wayne County judge recently ruled that a sufficient number of signatures from land owners were received, which prompted a Township-wide Special Assessment District public hearing and placement on the ballot.

When will the vote take place?

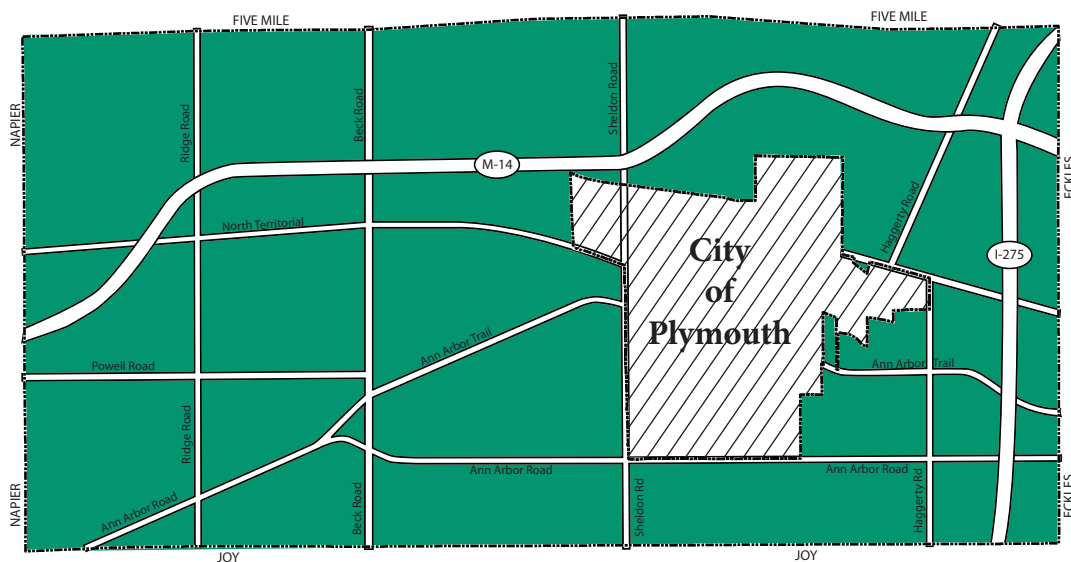
The proposal is to be placed on the election ballot for a vote in February of 2012. To exercise your rights, you can voice your concern at the Public Hearing on December 19, 2011. The vote on the proposal will be on February 28, 2012.

My taxes won't go up more than 1 mill for five years as part of this special assessment and there won't be any additional tax increases, correct?

No, that is not correct! The petition stated one (1) mill for a period of five (5) years however, Michigan law states the portion of the tax millage increase for fire equipment and housing alone can be up to 10 mills and the portion of the increase for fire maintenance and operations is unlimited and there is no end date. Any ballot provision that attempted to limit the tax millage would not be legally binding on this or future township boards.

Would this Special Assessment tax affect all Township land and property owners?

Yes, it would. Every single home, condo, business and property owner in Plymouth Township would be required to pay any special assessment tax increase on their taxable property (land and buildings) within the Township.



All owners of taxable property in the Township will be required to pay the SAD tax increase!

DID YOU KNOW ?

The language in the SAD petition stated one (1) mill for a period of five (5) years, however under Michigan law the Special Assessment District tax increase for fire equipment can be up to 10 mills with no end date and the portion of the tax increase for fire maintenance and operations including wages and benefits is unlimited with no end date.



Charter Township of Plymouth
9955 N. Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170-4673

PRSRT STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLYMOUTH, MI
Permit No. 218

Attention Postal Customer
Plymouth, MI 48170

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard Reaume, Supervisor
Ron Edwards, Treasurer
Joe Bridgman, Clerk
Kay Arnold, Trustee
Bob Doroshewitz, Trustee
Michael Kelly, Trustee
Steve Mann, Trustee

rreaume@plymouthtp.org
redwards@plymouthtp.org
jbridgman@plymouthtp.org
karnold@plymouthtp.org
bdoroshewitz@plymouthtp.org
mkelly@plymouthtp.org
smann@plymouthtp.org

Postal Carriers:
Please deliver to
**PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP
RESIDENCES ONLY**

Brief Overview | FAQ's

What are the latest developments with Plymouth Township Fire and Paramedic services?

- The City of Plymouth will be terminating its partnership with Plymouth Township in operating the joint Fire Department, effective December 31, 2011.
- The Township will be losing 25% of its revenue, roughly \$1,000,000, and a workload reduction of almost 30%.
- Despite these changes, we maintain a **firm commitment to provide Fire and EMS protection for everyone in the Township.**

What will be done to maintain Fire and Paramedic service levels?

- **We will continue to respond to all Fire and EMS** calls with fully trained and licensed personnel, just as we have in the past.
- **Firefighters and Huron Valley Ambulance paramedics will respond to emergency calls** in the Township just as they have since 1985.

What is the status of the Firefighters Union negotiations?

- In the fall of 2009, the Township began negotiations for concessions with the Firefighters union
- As of the end of 2010 there was no progress in negotiations and in early 2011 a state appointed mediator was brought in to help facilitate an agreement
- Having made no progress throughout the year, a state appointed arbitrator was assigned to oversee the binding arbitration process

ATTENTION RESIDENTS

Public Hearing regarding
Special Assessment District

POTENTIAL TAX INCREASE

Monday December 19, 2011
7 pm in Plymouth Township Hall

Is it true my taxes may be going up as a result of a Special Assessment District (SAD) tax increase?

- According to Michigan law, Township residents can petition for additional Fire Department funding through a special assessment tax increase if there is a petition signed by the owners of a minimum of 10% of the land in the Township.
- An SAD petition was recently submitted by a Township citizens group and a Wayne County judge ruled that a sufficient number of signatures were received, which prompted a Township-wide Special Assessment District public hearing and an upcoming vote.
- There will be a public hearing to hear objections on the estimate of the cost of the fire equipment, housing and fire protection and to hear objections on the question of creating a special assessment district. You can attend this public hearing at the Plymouth Township Hall on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 7pm.

I've heard the 1 mill for 5 years petition language may not be on the ballot. Why is that?

Michigan law, MCL 41.801, provides for a petition and vote of the electors on the issue of raising money by special assessment but not on the amount of such assessment. Tax increases could be up to 10 mills for equipment, an unlimited amount for operations and without an end date. Creating a SAD is a concern and a risk you should be aware of so that you can make a fully informed decision.

Please look inside for more details, and we encourage your feedback and suggestions.