

Capital Improvements Planning

Fire/Emergency Medical Services

The Plain Township Fire and Rescue Department operates out of five fire stations. The current locations of these stations warrants further study. The current locations are the result of the days when fire stations were established by private fire companies, good neighborhood locations for volunteer responses, and/or cheap and available land. Some existing stations were in place before population growth and annexations “re-drew” Plain Township’s boundaries.

All five stations operate with volunteers and three of them are staffed 24 hours a day. The stations are located at:

- Station 1: 3625 Middlebranch Road NE*
- Station 2: 4100 Harrison NW
- Station 3: 25th Street NW*
- Station 4: 2855 Easton Street NE
- Station 5: 7858 Market Avenue North*

** indicates station is staffed 24 hours/day*

The fire department would like to recruit qualified and reliable volunteers at all stations. There is also a need to consider additional mutual response agreements with contiguous communities. The fire department currently operates on a five-year, \$3,600,000 budget.

Full-Time Staff

<i>Position</i>	<i># of Personnel</i>
Firefighters/Paramedics	23
Fire Chief	1
Deputy Chief	1
Secretary	1
Fire Prevention Officers	2
Dispatchers	4
Mechanics	1.5
Total	33.5

Source: Plain Township Fire and Rescue Department, 2000

Part-Time Staff

<i>Position</i>	<i># of Personnel</i>
Deputy Chief	1
Dispatchers	4
Volunteer Firefighters/EMTs	60
Total	65

Source: Plain Township Fire and Rescue Department, 2000

Plain Township Fire and Rescue Department Budget 1997 - 2005

<i>Year</i>	<i>Salaries*</i>	<i>Tools/ Equipment</i>	<i>Total District Expenditures</i>	<i>Revenue (From Levies)</i>	<i>EMS Fees</i>
1997	\$ 1,026,630	\$854,456	\$ 2,691,339	\$ 2,059,376	--
1998	\$ 1,248,165	\$77,672	\$ 2,156,842	\$ 2,139,581	--
1999	\$ 1,343,943	\$249,971	\$ 2,471,854	\$ 2,094,905	\$113,364
2000	\$ 1,450,000	\$25,000	\$ 2,269,231	\$ 2,096,607	\$100,000
2001	\$ 1,600,000	\$50,000	\$ 2,538,462	\$ 2,159,505	\$100,000
2002	\$ 1,893,605	\$25,000	\$ 2,951,700	\$ 3,200,970	\$100,000
2003	\$ 2,026,157	\$325,000	\$ 3,617,165	\$ 3,520,000	\$100,000
2004	\$ 2,167,988	\$1,025,000	\$ 4,912,290	\$ 3,590,400	\$100,000
2005	\$ 2,319,748	\$110,000	\$ 3,738,073	\$ 3,662,208	\$100,000

Source: Plain Township Fire and Rescue Department, 2000

*Figure does not include benefits

**Equipment Needs
(Based on 20 Year Replacement Cycle)**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Equipment</i>
2001	Staff vehicle for promotions
2002	No major vehicle purchases
2003	Two (2) ambulances
2004	Two (2) ambulances
2005	Ladder Truck
2006	Pumper
2007	No major vehicle purchases
2008	Pumper
2009	Three (3) ambulances, pumper

Source: Plain Township Fire and Rescue Department, 2000

Stark County Sheriff

The new contract with Plain Township, 1/1/03 through 12/31/05, will require 18 deputies. The tentative schedule will be: 5 deputies on day shift with a minimum of 3 working per day; 7 deputies on afternoon shift with a minimum of 4 working per day; 4 deputies on midnights with a minimum of 3 working per day; and 2 deputies on fill-in. The Stark County Sheriff's Office is to provide a D.A.R.E. Officer to work with Plain Local Schools. The Sheriff's Office invoices directly for the costs of this officer and is not part of the policing contract. There is also a reserve deputy (a volunteer with the Sheriff's Office who has received training) from the Sheriff's Office that contracts directly with the Avondale Neighborhood Association to provide full-time service to that neighborhood.

The new three year contract to be negotiated will not exceed \$4,184,610. The Sheriff's Office estimates a wage increase of no more than 5% per year. The D.A.R.E. Officer would also be affected by any increase in wages and this would be reflected in the Sheriff's Office invoice to Plain Township for services rendered. To fund the deputies, the Township has a new tax levy, approved in 2002, which will be up for renewal in 2006. This new levy that now includes costs for vehicles (currently paid out of the general fund) and five additional deputies over the current 13 deputies. The Township

Trustees are also considering adding a full-time detective. Currently, deputies do their own detective work and investigating on an available time basis.

The Sheriff's Office provides at no cost to Plain Township, dispatching and record-keeping. Plain Township also benefits from several grant programs that the Sheriff's Office receives funding for including: Cops in School, Speed Step Grant, Cops in Shops, Violence Against Women, Litter Program, Safe Child Seat Installment, Bicycle Helmets and Safety School.

There will be 20 vehicles owned by Plain Township for use by deputies from the Stark County Sheriff's Office. In addition to the vehicles, the Township covers costs for all vehicle equipment (approximate cost per vehicle/equipment is \$33,103). Vehicles are replaced approximately every 5-8 years or 100,000 miles. Based on the following data, 7 vehicles will need to be replaced sometime in the next few years (2002 – 2004).

**Plain Township Vehicles
 for Use by Stark County Sheriff's Office**

<i>Vehicle ID</i>	<i>Vehicle Year</i>	<i>Meter</i>
7638	1996	98316
7637	1996	96768
7639	2000	39911
7644	2000	48812
7647	2000	35974
7643	2000	39881
7640	2000	36911
7646	1996	62343
7645	2000	49316
7649	2000	44380
7642	2000	47960
7641	1996	94302
7648	1996	98536
7651	1996	101008
7650	1996	101065

Source: Stark County Sheriff's Office, 2002

When asked to identify any problem areas in Plain Township, the Stark County Sheriff's Office felt that overall the Township didn't have any major police issues and that any problems there were associated with a few apartment complexes. Incidents at these complexes usually include thefts, neighbor disputes and domestic issues. The following table illustrates the types of police activities occurring in Plain Township over the last four years. Over half of the activities are incident calls, which include such things such as suspicious persons and vehicles, thefts, etc.

Stark County Sheriff's Office by Activity 1997-2000

<i>Activity</i>	<i>10/26/96 – 10/26/97</i>	<i>10/26/97 – 10/26/98</i>	<i>10/26/98 – 10/26/99</i>	<i>10/26/99 – 10/26/00</i>
Accidents	1,382 (13.3%)	1,307 (10.6%)	1,330 (9.8%)	1,253 (11.3%)
Bookings	789 (7.6%)	767 (6.2%)	672 (5.0%)	617 (5.5%)
Citations	2,585 (24.9%)	3,226 (26.3%)	4,741 (35.0%)	2,895 (26.1%)
Incidents	5,643 (54.3%)	6,988 (56.9%)	6,793 (50.2%)	6,329 (57.1%)
Total	10,399	12,288	13,536	11,094

Key: Accidents – Traffic Accidents
 Bookings – Individuals arrested in Plain Township (warrants, domestic violence, etc.)
 Citations – Traffic Citations (speeding, etc.)
 Incidents – Calls to Residences or Businesses (suspicious persons/vehicle, theft, etc.)

Storm Sewers

Storm sewers are regulated by Stark County (see Stark County Storm Sewer Regulations for Subdivisions, 1978). The County Commissioners have not adopted new regulations since 1978, even though the Stark County Engineer's Office has repeatedly asked for updated regulations. Recently though, the County has started requiring the use of erosion control measures during construction.

Plain Township Administrators do not feel that the County regulations have adequately addressed the effects of some new developments on nearby properties or that some new developments contain poorly designed storm sewers. This shows a need for Plain Township to implement a site plan review process.

Plain Township has identified the following drainage projects as priority projects and is pursuing grant money to cover costs.

- Chesham Drive Storm Sewer
- 32nd Street & Beverly
- Bentler Road
- Burkey Road
- Steiner Heights
- Linford Avenue and Storm Sewer
- Zimber Ditch

In the past, the Township has pursued matching funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission for storm sewer and road projects. Review of budgets over the last five years shows that the Township will spend over \$1 million/year to meet ongoing storm sewer improvements.

Sanitary Sewers

The Stark County Sanitary Engineer Department contracts with the City of Canton for Plain Township's wastewater disposal. In addition, the County manages any package treatment plants located in the Township. The County has a couple of projects identified in Plain Township that when completed will tie-in over 2,000 households and take off-line five package treatment plants in the Township.

The major sewer projects planned or just completed are as follows:

Along the West Branch, a sewer line extension was just completed that brought off-line the Pembroke package treatment plant (40,000 gallons/day).

There is another West Branch sewer line expansion planned that when completed will serve northwestern Plain Township and take off-line the Waltham Woods (Bob-O-Links) package treatment plant (300,000 gallons/day). The Sanitary Engineer will begin holding public meetings on this project in 2001, with 2003 as the earliest date for construction. The earliest completion date is 2005. The cost for this project is estimated at \$10 million.

To pay for these projects, the County assesses property owners only 30-40% of the total cost of construction, e.g., a 100' wide, single-family home would be assessed at \$3,500. The homeowner would also be charged a tap fee (appr. \$675) and connection fee (appr. \$1,400). Total cost for an average homeowner is approximately \$5,575.

City of Canton Treatment Plant Daily Capacity Levels

<i>Type of Capacity</i>	<i>Per Day Capacity Levels</i>
Design Capacity	39 million gallons/day
Average (1999) Capacity	26 million gallons/day
Capacity After West Branch and Middlebranch Projects are completed	28 million gallons/day

Source: Stark County Sanitary Engineer, City of Canton Water Pollution Control, 2000

Home Sewage

The Stark County Health Department oversees household sewage disposal systems, including inspections.

Water

Plain Township receives water from the Cities of Canton, North Canton, and a private water company, Consumers Water of Ohio. The City of Canton has capacity to provide 20 million gallons of water/day. In 1999, they served over 41,000 customers. This includes industrial, commercial and residential units.

The Canton Water Department obtains its water from underground wells. There are three separate well fields that supply water to the City's three water treatment plants. The first is referred to as the Northeast Well Field, which is located south of SR 62 on Harrisburg Road NE in Canton. The second is referred to as our Northwest Well Field, which is located just North of 38th Street on Guilford Road NW in Canton. The third is Sugarcreek Well Field is located about 5 miles south of Navarre on the corner of SR 21 and SR 212.

The City of North Canton has capacity to provide 6 million gallons of water/day. They serve approximately 8,600 customers. They obtain water from the following wells: two at Dressler Field, two at Price Park and two near the Treatment Plant along Freedom Avenue. They are also connecting to the City of Canton Water System.