

SPECIAL EDITION

# PLAIN TOWNSHIP NEWS

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## **A Letter From Your Sheriff & Board of Trustees**

The Plain Township Board of Trustees understands how important it is for township residents to be fully informed about their government, particularly when citizens are tasked with making decisions about the funding of their township services. In order to keep our community informed, this article will present budgetary information about our police services, which are provided by the Stark County Sheriff's Office, as well as provide information about the upcoming police levy on the ballot this November.

As you know, Plain Township contracts with the Stark County Sheriff's Office for police services. ***This contract provides for 14 deputies and one detective. These officers are exclusively assigned to Plain Township.*** All equipment used for these police services is owned by the township.

The Board of Trustees and Sheriff George Maier, work cooperatively to provide Plain Township with ***the best possible level of service for the lowest cost to the taxpayer.*** Understanding the funding mechanism of the police levy is the key to understanding Plain's level of police service. *The funding for the police levy has remained at 2.25 mills since 2002. For the past 14 years, the Plain Township Board of Trustees has not asked the residents for a tax increase for police services.*

**In 2007, three full time sheriff deputies were laid off from the Plain Township Sheriff's division,** due to an increase in contract and equipment costs. This was done instead of increasing the police levy. *Since then, police finances have become even tighter, as the State of Ohio has reduced the share of tax dollars it sends to local governments. As a result, Plain Township has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars each year from reduced local government funding.* These local government fund dollars were utilized in the past to augment our police levy. Police vehicles and needed police equipment were purchased with these funds. *As these local government funds have been slashed by the state, less money has been available for critical equipment.*

**While the Plain Township police levy has remained the same for the past 14 years, police costs have continued to increase, and the demand for police protection in Plain Township continues to grow.** *It is for these reasons the Board of Trustees is asking Plain Township residents to renew the existing 2.25 mill levy, as well as support a 2 mill increase. This increase will allow the hiring of 8 additional deputies, and will increase our boots on the ground police presence during each shift.* Plain Township will then be able to replace 4 worn out police vehicles with over 157,000 miles on them, and embark on a proper vehicle replacement schedule.

**The new 4.25 mill police levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$134 per year, or roughly \$11.00 per month. This is the only police levy Plain Township has to maintain police protection. There are no other police levies.**

*The trustees understand the economic burdens township taxpayers must face, but our community has excellent police services at a very reasonable cost. The Plain Township Board of Trustees and Sheriff Maier remain committed to keeping the homes and neighborhoods of Plain Township safe. Safe neighborhoods are a vital component to making the Plain Township community a great place to live, work and worship.*

*George T. Maier*

*Scott M. Haws*

*John A. Sabo*

*Albert P. Leno II*

# Fiscal Officer

(330) 493-1366

## A Message From Your Fiscal Officer

Tom W. Wolf, CPA

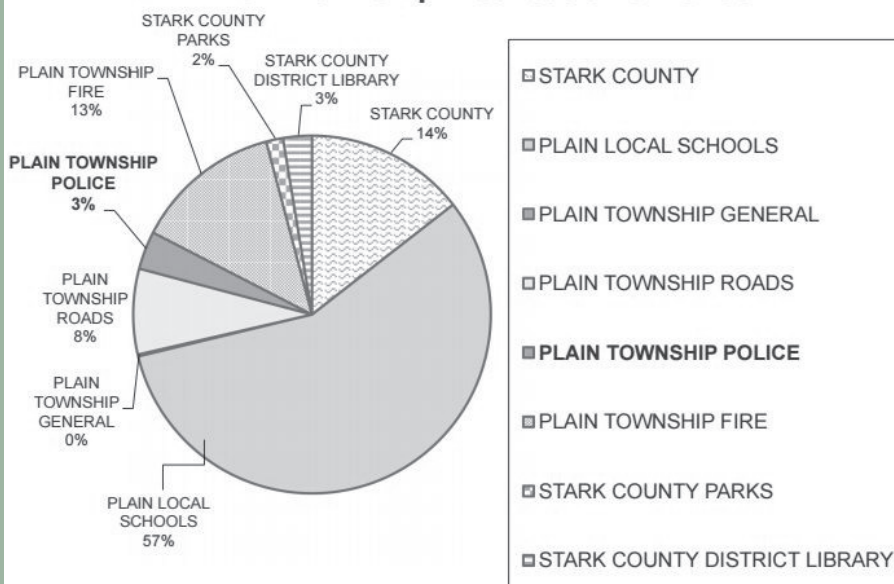


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Local residents will have the opportunity on **November 8th** to vote on a tax levy that will allow Plain Township to keep up with the increasing demands for police services in our growing community. *For the past several years, the trustees have been subsidizing police operations from the general fund at an ever-increasing rate. Why is there a shortfall in the Police Services fund?* The main cause has to do with the way levies are funded in this state (see details below), *whereby levies are not permitted to grow with the development of the township.* The other reason is simply economic factors: *the cost of gas, the cost of buying and maintaining police vehicles, increased contract cost for dispatching services, the cost of employing deputies and replacing their equipment (bulletproof vests, uniforms, etc.) as well as other costs, continue to grow.*

The basics of public finance are quite simple, for Ohio cities, the largest revenue source is the income tax; for Ohio townships (and schools) the largest revenue source is the property tax levy. The differences are major. Cities have the advantage. With an income tax, as payrolls grow, there is a proportional increase to the municipality in the form of tax revenues. **Levies, on the other hand, never generate more revenue, regardless of increases in property values.** The reason is simply state law. When a tax levy passes, it is stated as millage. In actuality, however, it's set to a dollar amount. For example, when a two-mill tax levy produces, say, \$100,000 dollars based upon property values in effect at the time of voter approval, then that \$100,000 dollars becomes the fixed upper limit for that particular levy. When there are increases in property values, because of inflation or because of new development, the dollar amount of a given tax levy does not increase. Rather, the millage that produced that \$100,000 gets reduced. Over time, as property values increase, that two-mill levy becomes 1.8 mills, then 1.5 mills, then 1.2 mills, eventually being reduced well below the original two mills that voters approved. You can see this erosion on your tax bill as the **"reduction factor."** The only way to capture new property value is to replace an existing levy, which is why the township generally tries to replace existing levies on a five-year cycle. **By renewing the existing levy this year, it will begin to generate tax revenue at the 2.25 mill level next year and the 2 additional mills will allow us to add deputies to meet the increasing demands.**

Plain Township Distribution of Taxes



*It is well recognized that no one, including your elected officials, likes to pay taxes. But it is equally well recognized that the quality of local services is determined through your support of levies.* When you look around the region, you can see that the hallmarks of a good community are good schools, good services and a safe environment. *These are the qualities that help to maintain – and increase – property values.* So be sure to vote on November 8th, and when you do, remember the police levy and its importance to the excellent lifestyle we enjoy in Plain Township.

Thank you,  
Tom Wolf, CPA

# Board of Trustees

(330) 492-4689

## Community Comparisons

<i>Police Agency</i>	<b>Plain (Current)</b>	<b>Plain (Proposed)</b>	<b>Jackson</b>	<b>North Canton</b>	<b>Perry</b>
<b>Income</b>	2.25 mil	4.25 mil	5.75 mil	City Income tax	3.74 mil
<b>Police Budget</b>	1,511,716	2,955,605	8,189,674	3,667,630	3,365,270
<b>Population</b>	35040	35040	40286	17496	29167
<b>Police Ratio</b>	1:2190	1:1445	1:936	1:972	1:1268
<b>Full Time</b>	16.25	24.25	43	18	23
<b>Part Time</b>	0	0	11	4	1
<b>Chief</b>	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Major</b>	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Lieutenant</b>	1	1	2	1	0
<b>Sergeant</b>	0	2	4	5	3
<b>Detective</b>	1	1	6	2	3
<b>Juvenile Service</b>	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Patrol</b>	14	22.25	38	9	16

*\* Data gathered over a two-year period and was current when obtained.*

*\*\* The Police Ratio stands for 1 Law Enforcement Officer per the amount of citizens noted. For instance, currently there is 1 law enforcement officer for every 2,190 Plain Township citizens.*

The above graph clearly illustrates the financial and administrative benefits of Plain Township, contracting with the Stark County Sheriff's Office to provide police services. Even with the proposed 2 mill increase to the police levy, the township's budget for police services is still significantly less than our neighboring communities. Plain Township has double the population of North Canton, but maintains a smaller budget for police, with more patrol personnel. Plain's population is only about 5,000 people less than Jackson Township, who will spend more than double what Plain spends on policing, even with the proposed additional levy. **The proposed additional levy will increase Plain Township's police presence, while still keeping Plain's police budget lower than our neighboring communities.**

## Register with Nixle

The Plain Township Board of Trustees has a community notification service available to all residents, businesses, schools and organizations within Plain Township. This service is called "Nixle." It is a way for our Sheriff's Office to communicate quickly and effectively in case of a township emergency. The Nixle service lets us reach out to residents to inform them of events like road closures, snow bans, amber alerts, severe weather, just to name a few by using email, texting or voice messaging. By registering at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) you are connected to emergency messaging from the Plain Township Division of the Sheriff's Office.

## CONTACT LIST

<b>Administration</b> info@plaintownship.com	(330) 492-4689
<b>Elected Officials</b>	
<b>Trustees</b>	(330)492-4689
<b>Fiscal Officer/Finance</b>	(330)493-1366
<b>County Commissioners</b>	(330)451-7371
<b>Fire &amp; Rescue</b>	
<b>Fire Administration</b>	(330)492-4089
<b>Emergency Calls</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>History</b>	
<b>Historical Society</b> preservingplaintwp@gmail.com	(330)494-6187
<b>Parks</b>	
<b>Park Programming</b>	(330)492-4689
<b>Park Reservations</b>	(330)492-4689
<b>Plain Local Sports</b>	
<b>Holly Hills Baseball</b> www.hollyhillsbaseball.com	(330)495-6333
<b>Community Soccer Club</b> www.communitysoccerclub.com	
<b>Plain Local Softball</b> www.PLBSA.com	(330)605-6841
<b>Plain Midget Football</b> www.plainlocalfootball.com	(330)966-2475
<b>Big Dog Lacrosse</b> www.bigdoglacrosse.com	(330)685-6199
<b>Police</b>	
<b>Stark County Sheriff</b>	(330)430-3800
<b>Emergency Calls</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Real Estate Records</b>	
<b>Stark County Auditor</b>	(330)451-7357
<b>Recycling</b>	
<b>Solid Waste District</b>	(800)678-9839
<b>Road Department/Storm Sewer</b>	
<b>Stark County Roads</b>	(330)477-6781
<b>Stark County Sewer</b>	(330)451-2303
<b>State of Ohio Roads</b>	(330)452-0365
<b>Plain Township Roads</b>	(330)492-3423
<b>Schools</b>	
<b>Canton City</b>	(330)438-2500
<b>North Canton</b>	(330)497-5600
<b>Plain School Admin.</b>	(330)492-3500
<b>Plain Bus Garage</b>	(330)492-1918
<b>Septic Systems</b>	
<b>Stark Co. Health Dept.</b>	(330)493-9904
<b>Voter Registration</b>	
<b>Board of Elections</b>	(330)451-8683
<b>Water Service</b>	
<b>Canton City Water</b>	(330)489-3315
<b>North Canton Water</b>	(330)499-4801
<b>Aqua Water</b>	(877)987-2782
<b>Zoning Permits</b>	
<b>Plain Township Zoning</b>	(330)492-4686

# PLAIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

2600 Easton Street NE, Canton, OH 44721

## Did you know?

**Did you know the biggest policing issue in the township is property crimes, such as theft?**

Please make sure to secure your home, vehicle and belongings.

**Did you know that Plain Township has 2 police substations?**

One on Easton Street at the Township Hall and the other at Fire Station #3 at 2625 25<sup>th</sup> ST NW.

**Did you know that our deputies drive over 203,000 miles a year on our Plain Township roadways to keep you safe?**

**Did you know that Plain Local Schools and Plain Township share the cost of School Resource Officer Deputy Chad Smith?**

**Did you know that Plain Township makes up 41% of all calls that come into the Stark County Sheriff's Office?**

**Did you know that only 3% of your taxes currently are earmarked for the policing of Plain Township?**

**To report a crime in Plain Township, call  
(330) 430-3800 and press zero (0) for a dispatcher.**