2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET APROVED

COMMISSIONERS ENACT TAX CUT FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the second year in a row the taxpayers of East Deer Township will receive a reduction in their tax bill next year. At their regular meeting on October 8th The Board of Commissioners passed the second reading of a preliminary 2016 budge that includes a 1.35% tax cut.

The total budget is $1,821,078.02. Major fund breakdowns are as follows, general fund $955,661.88, water fund $786,290.00, highway aid $79,135.14. The major expenditures in the general fund are administration $155,750, police $181,950, fire department $24,676.88, health and sanitation $106,254.24, highway $185,525.51, and miscellaneous $190,930.39.

The 2016 budget is still a work in progress as the Board continues to evaluate the 2015 expenditures, revenue, and the calculation of the fund balances at the end of the year. We are not anticipating any major changes at this point. The Board of Commissioners is committed to maintaining the tax cut irreguardless as to any changes that may occur in the budget.

During the past few years the Commissioners have implemented several cost saving measures that have been successful and the tax cuts are a result of these efforts that are being passed on to tax payer.
FLOOD INSURANCE

Allegheny County Emergency Management and the East Deer Township Emergency Coordinator have asked that we notify residents that National Flood Insurance is available to residents that live in flood zones.

Flood insurance is different than homeowners and will cover many things that homeowners does not in the event of flooding and other disasters. Contact your agent for information.

RECREATION NEWS

The East Deer Recreation Committee held two Movies in the park this summer. Approximately sixty people attended each movie. Every one seemed to have a good time and the hope is that next summer we will have more even movies.

Plans are being made to have lunch with Santa.

We are looking for two additional members of the recreation committee. If you would like to help plan and carry out events please submit a letter of interest to our Township Secretary.

MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED

East Deer Township has recently completed two major projects. Construction crews completed the Front Street sewer separation project and the Edna Alley water line replacement project.

The Front Street sewer separation project was the second phase of a project to separate sanitary sewers from storm sewers in that neighborhood. The work resulted in the elimination of unwanted storm water being treated at the sewer authority treatment facility. The completion of this project helps East Deer Township comply with the consent decree East Deer Township and the Upper Allegheny Joint Authority are under. We were able to finance project with a grant from the DCED grant in the amount of $127,500 with the township responsible for 15% of the cost. Pampena Construction completed the work.

The second project was the Edna Alley water line. This was our top priority in our water department because of frequent water breaks in that area. This project was financed with a $126,250 DCED grant the township once again responsible for 15% of the cost. This section of Edna Alley was also our top priority with township streets and we were able to repave the entire section Of Edna Alley with this project. The work was done by Ron Gilette Incorporated.

We still have a demolition project to be completed this year.
POLICE CHIEF JOHN MANCHINI WITH EAST DEER’S NEW CRUISER

EAST DEER UPGRADES MAJOR EQUIPMENT

Over the past few years East Deer Township has been working to upgrade its major equipment. On October 8, 2015 we put into service a new police cruiser. It is a 2015 Ford Explorer with four wheel drive and a complete police package upgrade. For many years we have used Ford Crown Victoria police vehicles. They are no longer manufactured and so we decided to try a four wheel drive vehicle. The feeling is that this vehicle will enhance the level of service that we can provide during the winter months during periods of bad weather. It replaces a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria which we will sell through a bid.

In 2013 East Deer purchased a Ford 350 four wheel drive dump truck equipped with a snow plow and salt spreader. This vehicle was a tremendous upgrade in replacing the 1991 one half ton Chevy dump truck that was not four wheel drive. The addition of the new dump has greatly upgraded our ability to perform winter maintenance as well as our ability to repair water breaks and complete road maintenance.

In 2012 the Township purchased a new one ton Ford four wheel drive pickup truck. This vehicle is equipped with a snow plow and electric salt spreader. This truck replaced a similar vehicle that was four years old.

With the addition of this new equipment East Deer is now ready to provide even better service to its residents.
OPEN BURNING IN EAST DEER TOWNSHIP

East Deer Township does not have an ordinance regulating open burning since it must follow the rules established by Allegheny County. Recently there have been complaints concerning open burning and we want to enlighten you as to what is permissible in our Township.

Open burning is permitted when it is solely conducted for the preparation of food for human consumption, recreation, light, or ornament, and in a manner in which contributes a negligible amount of air contaminants.

1. No material other than clean wood, propane, or natural gas may be burned except for:
   - Commercially available fire logs, paraffin logs, or wood pallets.
   - Fires may be no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet x 2 feet high
   - Fires must be at least 15 feet from the nearest neighbors dwelling or inhabited area including property line, roadway, sidewalk, or public excess area.
   - Wood burning activities are prohibited on Air Quality Action days, with the exception of burning for the commercial preparation of food
   - Burning may be prohibited or reduced if it is considered a nuisance, based on the following:

NEW WEB PAGE COMING SOON

East Deer Township is in the process of building a new web page. At our regular meeting on October 8th the Board of Commissioners retained MIBS Inc. of Cranberry to build a new web page for the Township. The new web page is being built to be user friendly and to provide access to all important information necessary to all users. We are now in the process of gathering all necessary data and forms to supply our vendor. Our goal is to have the page up and running by January 1, 2016

We are actively seeking input and looking at other municipalities web pages for ideas help make our new web page state of the art. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to things that you feel would be beneficial to East Deer’s web page contact our office by phone or e-mail.

HALLOWEEN OCT. 31 6:00PM UNTIL 8:00PM

DO NOT FORGET TO GET US YOUR PHONE NUMBERS FOR OUR CODE RED SYSTEM
**PLANNING CONTINUES ON WATER TANK PROJECT**

Work continues with the planning and permitting for the renovations for our one million gallon water tank. Phil Herman, Township Engineer representing our consultant Senate Engineering has been busy preparing bid specifications and securing DEP permitting for the project.

Phase one is expected to include the abrasive blasting of the interior surface and the application of a high build lining to the interior. The project will also include a twenty five inch frost free aluminum vent, full overflow Improvement, roof safety rail, interior ladder and safety device, exterior spot repairs including cleaning and primer. The total estimated cost of phase 1 is $284,295.64.

The Board of Commissioners were successful in obtaining a $250,000 GEDF grant from the Pennsylvania State Financing Authority.

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**CONSERVING ENERGY AND SAVING TAX DOLLARS**

The East Deer Township Board of Commissioners is committed to conserving energy and at the same time saving tax dollars for its taxpayers. The 2016 budget is reflecting a 1.35% tax cut. The second in two years. This was made possible the Boards efforts to conserve energy and other cost cutting measures that they are passing along a portion of to the tax payers.

The largest cost saving measure was to eliminate the inefficient central heating steam boiler and replace it with high efficiency zone heating forced air units that resulted in a saving of over $10,000 per year.

The Board recently entered into an agreement with Constellation Energy to provide electricity at all of our locations. This action resulted in a savings of 39% of the cost of all electrify that we use. Constellation is the recommended provider of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and the Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners.

This past summer we retrofitted all traffic lights with LED bulbs. This project was financed with a grant from ARLE. ARLE is a program financed through traffic citations in Philadelphia issued with cameras at intersections. The estimated savings is estimated at 50% to 80%.

The Township also installed a new system to relay elevations from our water tank. We were able to eliminate a dedicated phone line with a remote system saving us $300 each month. We are continuing to search for more savings.
**WE NEED YOUR PHONE NUMBERS FOR CODE RED**

East Deer Township has implemented a system called Code Red. This system is a reverse 911 type system that our township can use for many purposes by our municipality. Examples of its potential use are to notify residents of emergency situations such as water breaks, flooding, road closures, severe storms, or any other emergency that may occur. It can also be used for non emergency purposes such as announcing recreational activities, changes in garbage collection, e-recycling, meeting changes, and special dates or programs that are of value.

In order for this program to be fully utilized to its potential and to be effective we need your phone numbers to be placed into our system. We need both land lines and cell phone numbers. Any numbers that you supply us with will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone.

**TWO WAYS TO SUPPLY US WITH YOUR NUMBERS**

1) Phone us 724-224-3434 Or E-mail us at eastdeermanager@outlook.com

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**DROP BOX FOR WATER BILLS**

We now have a drop box on the back of our building near the Police Department entrance to drop off water bill payment after hours. Only check payments are to be deposited in the drop box. **NO CASH PAYMENTS ARE PERMITTED.**