



PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL REQUEST TO MAINTAIN POLICE & FIRE SERVICES

Laketon Township will again be asking voters to approve this public safety funding as a **millage renewal** at the election to be held on May 5, 2009. This is a request to renew the previously approved millage, **not an increase** in millage. This funding is needed in order for Laketon Township to pay for police and fire services.

In 2004 Laketon Township voters approved a millage for public safety in the amount of 2 mills (\$2.00 for every thousand dollars of taxable value). The millage request was approved for a period of five years, which covered 2004 thru 2008. The public safety millage covers the following public safety expenses: the cost of one(1) Muskegon County Sheriff's Deputy to patrol Laketon Township 5 days per week, the cost of a contract with Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department for fire coverage in Laketon Township and the cost of fire hydrant fees for fire hydrants located in Laketon Township.

Laketon Township currently pays for one(1) deputy from the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department to be dedicated to patrolling within Laketon Township boundaries only. The deputy is available to quickly respond to all types calls from burglaries to traffic accidents. The deputy also watches for speeding traffic in school zones and other areas. Property Checks are another service provided. If you are away from home on vacation or for any other reason the deputy will periodically check on the home. You only need to fill out a brief request form at Laketon Township Hall before you leave town. Statistics and reports showing the calls responded to within Laketon Township are available on the Muskegon County Sheriff's website at www.muskegonsheriff.com

With Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department services, Laketon Township currently enjoys an excellent fire rating from Insurance Services Organization (ISO Class 5). This number is very important to every homeowner because the better the rating, the lower your homeowner's insurance rates. For example: insurance on a Laketon Township home with a replacement cost of \$150,000 at ISO Class 10 would be \$1079 per year but with an ISO Class 5 it would be \$858 per year: a \$221 savings—estimates provided by Sheldon Parrish of Farm Bureau Insurance. If this example home had a \$75,000 taxable value this 2 mills for public safety would cost \$150 per year. In this example, a homeowner would see a monetary savings of \$71 per year. A homeowner would also have the peace of mind that their home (which is often a family's single largest investment) is protected by the services of an excellent fire department. In addition to fires, the fire department responds to other emergencies such as traffic accidents with trained medical personnel.

We all hope we will never have need of these services, but when an emergency situation occurs police and fire services are essential to the safety and security of ourselves and our loved ones as well as our homes and property. Please remember to vote on Tuesday May 5, 2009.

**Public Safety Millage RENEWAL Request
Vote on Tuesday May 5, 2009**