



# Dallas Township NEWSLETTER

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## Supervisors Hold First Reading of 2024 Budget

During the November 8th Supervisors' meeting, the first reading of the 2024 Budget took place. The Supervisors presented a detailed outline of the financial plan that will govern the Township's spending in the upcoming year.

### Navigating Financial Shifts:

The budget discussion included a proposed adjustment in property taxes, signaling an increase from the current 1.95 mills to 2.25 mills. This increase aims to inject an additional \$200,000 into the Township's financial pool, pending final approval at the December meeting. The Township intends to tap into a surplus of over \$760,000 from previous fiscal years to maintain financial equilibrium.

### Infrastructure and FEMA/PEMA Collaboration:

A significant allocation of \$475,000 is earmarked for rehabilitating storm-damaged roads, including Main Road, Dorchester Drive, Goodman Road, and others that received damage from the September 9th storms. Despite the considerable investment, the Township remains optimistic about securing support from FEMA/PEMA to alleviate the financial burden associated with these crucial repairs.

### What is a "mill"?:

A mill rate is a figure many municipalities use to calculate property taxes. One mill is 0.1 cents or one-thousandth of a dollar. Thus, a mill rate of 1 means you pay \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of your property's assessed value. (Assessed Value x Millage = Property Tax)

### How this impacts residents:

For homeowners with a property assessed at \$150,000, the proposed millage adjustment translates to an estimated annual increase of \$45.00.

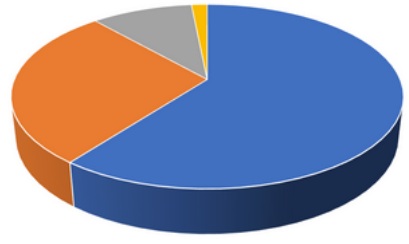
If your property's assessed value is \$150,000 you would calculate the tax by multiplying \$150,000 by 0.00225, resulting in \$337.50. This sum constitutes your payment for Township property taxes.

The Fire Protection Tax will remain unchanged at 0.35 mills.

	2024 Millages	\$150,000 Assessment	\$200,000 Assessment	\$250,000 Assessment
Dallas Township	2.2500	337.50	450.00	562.50
Dallas Township (FPT)	0.3500	52.50	70.00	87.50

Despite this adjustment, Dallas Township's property tax remains significantly less than school and county levies.

\$150,000 Assessment



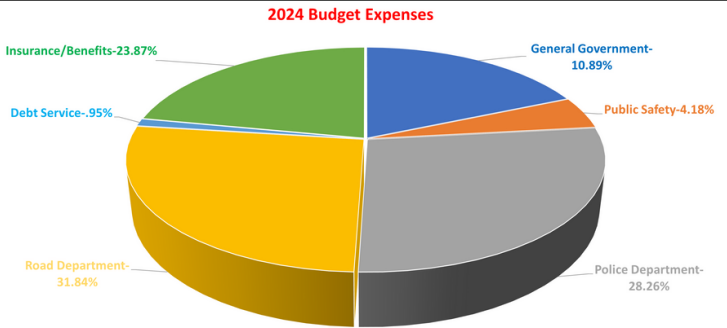
- Dallas School District \$2,045.07 or 60.36%
- Luzerne County \$953.12 or 28.13%
- Dallas Township \$337.50 or 9.96%
- Dallas Township (FPT) \$52.50 or 1.55%

### Pension Plans Expected Rate of Return:

The Township has adjusted its pension plans by lowering the Expected Rate of Return (ERR) from 8% to 5.75%, aligning it more closely with current market conditions. As a result of this decision, the Township's contributions will increase by \$133,000, bringing the total contributions to the pension plans to \$390,000.

### Where Your Township Tax Dollars are Spent:

General Government-10.89%	559,050	10.89%
Public Safety-4.18%	214,750	4.18%
Police Department-28.26%	1,450,900	28.26%
Road Department-31.84%	1,634,700	31.84%
Debt Service-.95%	48,850	0.95%
Insurance/Benefits-23.87%	1,225,400	23.87%
	5,133,650	100.00%



For residents who are seeking more detailed information about the annual budget and expenses, we encourage you to visit our website or stop by the Township administration building.



## Road Department News

The Road Department has been busy with the leaf-vac and is also collecting bagged leaves from residential properties on Township, county, and state roads. Please use biodegradable paper composting bags—no plastic. We appreciate your help in keeping the environment clean. The department is also winter-ready with plow trucks and a shed stocked with salt and antiskid materials.



From all of us at  
Dallas Township



## UP COMING EVENTS

**December 5, 2023:** Supervisors Board meeting - 6:30 PM

**December 9, 2023:** Old Fashioned Christmas Tree Lighting - 5:00 PM

**December 12, 2023:** Planning Commission meeting - 7:00 PM

**December 18, 2023:** Zoning Hearing Board meeting - 6:30 PM

*All Township meetings are open to the public. If you wish to attend virtually, the Township Supervisors ask that you call or email: [meetings@dallastwp.org](mailto:meetings@dallastwp.org) to reserve your spot. The meetings will continue to be streamed LIVE on the Dallas Township Facebook page. The Neighborhood Watch and Zoning Hearing Board meetings are excluded from live streaming.*

Dallas Township  
Old Fashioned

Christmas Tree Lighting

BACK MOUNTAIN LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD  
December 9th, 2023 5:00PM -7:30PM



**Dallas Township**

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Visit our website:  
[www.dallastwp.org](http://www.dallastwp.org)

## Don't Let The Grinch Steal Your Joy this Holiday Season

As we gear up for the coziest and most twinkling time of the year, let's ensure our holiday shopping adventures remain as merry as a sleigh ride through a snowy wonderland. Here are some festive tips to keep those Grinches away as you joyfully check off the gifts on your list.

In the spirit of Santa checking his list twice, stay aware of your surroundings. Keep a watchful eye on your belongings, and remember, if something feels as amiss as a mischievous elf, trust your instincts.

Let's talk about parking lot safety. Park in areas adorned with cheerful lights, and avoid being a lone reindeer in the vast parking wilderness. If you're leaving bags in your sleigh, stash them in the trunk – out of sight, out of mind for potential grinches.

For those who prefer the twinkling lights of online shopping, ensure you're using secure websites and keeping passwords as strong as Grandma's fruitcake. And, of course, track your packages like a hawk keeping watch over a gingerbread house.

Speaking of online shopping, beware of the porch pirate, that modern-day Scrooge who could snatch your festive packages from your doorstep. Foil their plans with delivery alerts, schedule deliveries when you're home, or consider using secure lockboxes to guard your treasures.

This holiday season, let joy reign supreme over any potential heists. Stay safe, stay jolly, and let's make this season the merriest and safest one yet!

