

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM ED DEISHER

Bethel Township Board of Supervisors Meeting – 9/9/2025

From 2014 to 2023, property tax rates remain constant in Delaware County. In 2024, the new regime increased property taxes by 4% while spending skyrocketed, creating a deficit of \$76 million. In 2025, a 24% tax increase was implemented to put a Band-Aid on this shortfall. Now, there are rumors of another 20+ percent tax increase for 2026. This is unacceptable and I hope all taxpayers will make their voices known. It has certainly heightened awareness among taxpayers countywide.

In 2025, Bethel Township increased or added fees for trash and ambulance services, respectively, which increased the overall tax bill. Residents are being burdened enough with higher prices for everything; while trash and sewer are pass-through costs, and the Township would have had to spend money to make up the difference if they weren't raised, residents also deserve to know what the Township is considering. Taxes were raised last year - will they be raised again this year?

In recent months, there have been discussions on spending for Schaeffer Preserve. While it's great to have preserved land in the Township, I feel this is a luxury. Township services should be prioritized, especially for our first responders. The fire company in particular needs to replace equipment and update its facilities. This affects everyone! In addition, Township Reserve Funds should be tapped only for emergencies.

Forewarned is forearmed - letting residents know now what options the Township is considering and where we stand with our budget allows them to plan financially. Letting people know now, even if there's a chance their taxes will go up, is better than letting them know right before the holidays. The residents of Bethel Township deserve transparency and focus on the core services that affect us all.