

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Limerick Board Reorganizes

On Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Limerick Township Supervisors held their Annual Reorganization Meeting and unanimously elected Thomas Neafcy as the Chairman, and Kara Shuler as the Vice Chair for 2011. The Reorganizational Meeting is also the start of the new Budget year which includes several cost cutting initiatives approved within the Final Budget which was adopted on December 21, 2010. The primary focus of the approved 2011 Budget is to maintain the high level of services provided to the community without an increase in the local Municipal Tax Rate. As with all governmental units, Limerick Township has experienced a reduction in revenues due to the current economic downturn. While many Municipalities and School Districts are addressing the revenue shortfalls with increased taxes, the Limerick Board approved the use of reserve funds to cover the deficit and not increase the local Real Estate Tax Rate. Local taxes paid to Limerick Township for 2011 will remain at 1.213 mils. To address the projected Preliminary Budget deficit of \$850,000 the Board authorized the following operational cost cuts: Elimination of the Planning/Sewer Director position, restructuring of the current Code/Zoning Staff to reduce payments to outside consultants, elimination of the Sewer Engineer position and combining duties with current Engineering Staff, and elimination of annual raises to non-uniform employees. These actions will result in overall operational savings of approximately \$135,000 annually. While it is always difficult to cut a Staffing position, the current economic situation along with continued declines in land development and permit revenues dictated this move states Chairman Neafcy.

Sound business practices over the past several years have afforded the Board with adequate reserve funds which will be used to cover the remaining deficit. Ongoing operational reductions and efficiency improvements enacted since 2006 have worked to limit the scope of the current deficit, without any reduction in services. The Board is committed to maintaining current services, but realizes the short term use of reserve funds cannot be maintained if recurrent revenues continue to be depressed. During my time on this Board I have heard from many how pleased they are with Police, Roads, and Park services offered. We have been proactive in reducing the overall Township operation while maintaining core services and the proper business planning for future needs states Supervisor Joseph St. Pedro.

To ensure non-operating Budget funds remain stable as well, the Board also cut back on planned capital equipment purchases and facility upgrades. Approximately \$160,000 of capital equipment and vehicle purchases were removed from the Budget along with a planned \$1 million renovation to the Public Works facility. All were carefully reviewed to ensure that no reduction in services would occur with the elimination of these Budget requests. Even though the 2011 Budget has been approved, the Board will continue to review Budget initiatives throughout the year during their regular public meetings held on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

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