



# The Clay Connection

Watch out for wildlife crossing the road.

April 2016

## Where Do My Property Taxes Go?

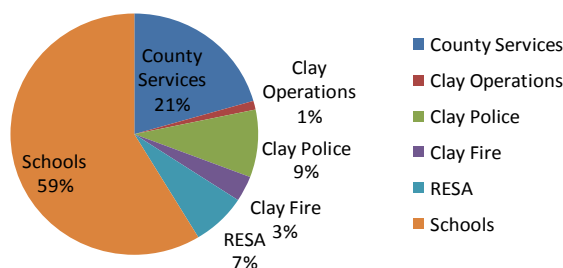
It is the township's duty to assess property values and collect property taxes per State statute. Thought we should show how your hard earned tax money supports services received. Listed below are the millage rates assessed;

County Operations	5.3265
Drug Task Force	.2803
Senior Citizens	.8
Library	.7
Parks & Rec*	.4954
Veterans	.1
County Rd*	<u>.25</u>
County Total	7.96
County College	1.8891
County RESA	
Int School	.1938
Spec Ed	2.3113
Voc Ed	<u>.9245</u>
RESA Total	3.43
State Education	6.0
School Debt	4.09
School operations	18.0
Clay Twp operations	.5569
Clay PD	4.35
Clay FD	<u>1.625</u>
Clay Total	6.54

The total township share is only 13% of your property taxes. That includes Fire, Police, and Operations including roads. \*The township receives 25% of the county roads and Parks & Rec. The County receives 21%, RESA receives about 7% of your taxes. The State and local schools receive a little less than 59% of your property taxes. Township operations makes up only 1% of your property taxes. Operations include Assessing, Building, Planning, Zoning, Administration,

Roads, Street Lighting and Elections. Township Police collect about 9% of the taxes and Clay Fire Dept receives about 3%. These are set up as restricted funds, in another words, money for the police and fire have to be spent for police and fire only. The Clay Water and Sewer are supported 100% from user fees. So only about 13% of your tax bill stays in the township. The township is looking every day to stretch your tax \$\$\$

Property Taxes



## Police Station Addition

We have started a much needed addition to our police station. The current station once housed our water department and was never designed for a police station. We had security issues, inadequate evidence room, no women's locker room or training area. MIOSHA has been requesting that the

township address the women's locker room issue. We are expanding and improving our evidence room. We are required to properly store some of the items forever and we must maintain temperatures and store biological evidence. Plans are to build a more secure interview room, temporary kennel for stray animals, more office space

and a training area that will be named after long time retired police chief, Carl Trombly. The \$403,000 addition is being paid for from a \$220,000 police fund balance and the DDA funds. It will not affect our tax rate what so ever. It will enable our police department to run more efficiently. Our first responders are our heroes and the true heartbeat of our community.

## Beware of Scams

There has been an increase in phone and mail scams as of late. If you receive a call from someone stating they are from the IRS, credit card or utility companies, **BEWARE**. They probably are not! Do not give them any of your personal information. The IRS and most companies will not call you or send you emails. They will also try to bait you with free trips, you must pay the tax and misc charges. **IF IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS NOT TRUE.** Also, Clay is reviewing our peddlers application, we will be doing back ground checks and issuing picture ID's. If you see any suspicious behavior, call our police dispatch at 810-794-9381.

## St John's Marsh Cleanup

The St John's Marsh cleanup is May 7th morning at the DNR parking lot.

## Cleanup Day

Clean up Day is Saturday June 4th. We will have dumpsters available behind the water department from 8-4 and also electronic recycling from 8-1.