

Letter to Lima Township Citizens

The Lima Township Board, without voter permission, is planning on spending in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000 (that's two million dollars!) to build a new town hall and offices.

They've already spent \$420,000 purchasing land and thousands more on surveying, tree removal, road design and soon – road construction (N. Lima Center Rd between Jackson and the expressway). This will all probably total some **\$800 per Lima Township voter!**

Please note that *none* of the current board members were elected on a platform of building a new hall and offices. In fact, the Supervisor went to great pains to avoid the issue by canceling meetings of a committee studying the issue before the 2016 election.

WOW!! This might lead Lima Township voters to ask some questions:

1. Do we need a new township hall?
 - A. No. The existing hall is solid and only needs renovations to the north end of the building to improve the bathrooms and access.

No-reason absentee voting will continue to decrease the percentage of citizens voting in person. In 30 years, there has rarely been a meeting held that couldn't be accommodated in the facility we now have.

2. Do we need new township offices?
 - A. No. Township offices located in the Chelsea Area Construction Agency building on Jackson Road are perfectly adequate for the 9 hours a week they are open. The rental rate is modest and the space is secure for the future.
3. How has the Township paid for the expense so far?
 - A. Out of savings.

4. What? Where did the extra money come from?
 - A. Well, from you... you've been overtaxed!

5. How would they pay for the new hall and offices?
 - A. Out of savings and by borrowing. Debt service will be with your tax dollars. They say your taxes will not increase. This is only because you are currently overtaxed!

6. Does the Township have anything else they could spend our savings on?
 - A. Sure—roads and bridges. You know the conditions of the township roads, and we currently have two bridges closed with no plans for replacement and we are spending no money to maintain the bridges that are open (for now).

7. I don't want to waste my tax dollars this way. What should the Township do?
 - Keep the offices where they are.
 - Renovate the existing township hall.
 - Sell land not connected to the #2 Fire station.
 - Concentrate on upgrading roads, repairing and maintaining bridges.
 - Reduce your tax rate.

8. What should township residents do?

Express your displeasure by writing the Board or coming to the monthly Township meetings on the second Monday each month. The next meeting is June 10th at 7:00 PM. Addresses and more information, please go to the website: www.twp-lima.org.

I've never seen a public project managed in this way. It would be normal and proper to write a comprehensive project scope and solicit total project costs with alternative options to present to voters to make an informed decision.

This is not the case here. Board members want a new town hall and offices and are not looking at alternatives. They don't seem to be worried about the cost or driving the Township into debt. They say don't worry about it – your taxes won't

go up! We've all heard this many times by government officials. This is government speak for: support this and your taxes will never decrease. Government spending will always increase to at least match income.

The board is trying to sneak this by the Lima Township voters without allowing a vote to give us a say on how our money is spent.

Please make your voice heard! Silence will cost you!

Bob Spink

Lima Township