



# MINE HILL TOWNSHIP

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## 2013 Budget Message

3.21.2013

For 2013, The Municipal Budget will have a tax increase of \$59.26 on the average assessed house of \$278,000.00. That is \$4.94 per month. The 2013 budget, like the 2012 budget, adds no new debt. The tax levy in 2012 was \$3.162M and in 2013 is \$3.274 M; an increase of \$112,000.00. The tax rate rose from 72.1 cents to 74.2 cents. (1 cent = \$44,000.00) This budget also projects a very conservative 96% tax collection rate. Our tax collection rate for 2012 was 96.9%. We are hopeful the tax collection rate will trend upward to around 97.3% for 2013. If this trend occurs, it will leave us very well positioned for the 2014 budget.

In 2012, the average increase \$89.78. While no increase is always the goal, we are trending in the right direction. The 2013 increase is down 35% over last year. We are also facing numerous unforeseen expenses this year. Without some of these urgent issues, we would have been around a \$38.00, or \$3.50/month increase for 2013. This would have been a significant drop from 2012.

### Increased Expenses:

Police -	+\$30,855* (\$81,000 before renegotiation)
Health Plans -	+\$24,900*
Fire Department	+\$31,000**
FD Turn-out gear	+\$20,923
2 Mine Hole Collapses	+\$25,000** (fireman's field) and \$15,000** (Xenia Ct.)
Pension increase	+\$5,573.00*

\*Outside cap law

\*\*unforeseen urgent situations

### Some of our Revenue Losses:

Loss in uncollected taxes	-\$69,018
Local revenues – Municipal court, interest, etc.	-\$33,166
Items of special revenue	-\$29,151 (miscellaneous revenue streams such as cable franchise fees, Verizon fees, Interest on taxes, etc.)

This budget maintains our ability to address the operational as well as infrastructural needs of the municipality. Our Standard & Poor's rating of AA- (stable outlook) has been reaffirmed this spring. In time, as our debt reduces and our surplus approaches \$500,000, we are likely to see an increase in our bond rating. I'm proud that in light of several unforeseen urgent matters and prudent fiscal management, we can submit a budget with a manageable \$4.94/month increase WITHOUT any borrowing. *We are paying our way as we go.*

Sincerely,

Mayor Sam Morris