

Voters to decide source of LCHD dollars

Townships, municipalities could be responsible for funding

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Examiner Staff Writer

Voters have the opportunity next week to determine how the Logan County Health District will be funded in the coming years.

The agency has been funded by operating levies since 1978, said Dr. William Verbsky, health commissioner from 1972 to 1976 and 1979 to 2000. The LCHD once again is placing an issue before voters Tuesday in the form of a 10-year 1-mill replacement levy. Current levy funds expire at the end of the year.

However, if the initiative fails, the responsibility of providing the agency with operating funds would fall on the city of Bellefontaine and on all county municipalities and townships, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

“The various entities would be required to fund the health district, which would be collected through inside millage,” County Auditor Mike Yoder said. “Most counties (in Ohio) fund their health departments this way.”

Overall, the LCHD would receive \$500,000 in inside millage from these entities next year. This allotment is determined by the county budget commission and is subject to annual review.

The amount that each entity owes to the health district, also known as its apportionment, is calculated as a percentage of its current assessed real estate value, Mr. Yoder said. This situation inevitably leads to a reduction in available funds for the townships and municipalities.

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— **Dr. William Verbsky**
Former Health Commissioner

Dustin Wickersham, Stokes Township trustee, said the loss of these funds would likely result in lengthier time frames for various projects.

“This is going to impact us as much as the smaller townships,” he said. “Even if only \$10,000 was taken away from us, we would still feel the effects.”

“We will definitely have to slow down our schedule. If roads are bad, it just pushes back the time frame to get that done. If there are drainage problems, it might take awhile to get that fixed.”

Taking care of the township roads is more costly than the public might realize, Mr. Wickersham said. “It costs about \$60,000 to pave one mile of roadway, and we have about 50 miles of roadway in Stokes Township.”

Bellefontaine Mayor Adam Brannon said this situation would strain the city’s budget, which in recent years has totaled approximately \$7.6 million.

“We would have to start using money from other places, such as our reserves, and looking at finding more industry.”

Dr. Verbsky said this pinch in resources for those entities funding the LCHD also was experienced in 1970s, prior to the start of the operating levy.

“There was a lot of consternation at that time,” he said. “The trustees thought we took a lot of funding from them.” This issue is the main reason that the health district originally requested levy funding, according to Dr. Verbsky. “This allows the townships to do the things they need to do and allows us at the health district to do the same thing,” he said. “Neither the townships and municipalities nor the health district will be operating at full efficiency without the levy.”

See below for expected contributions

If the Logan County Health District levy fails Tuesday, all townships and municipalities in the county will be responsible for providing operating funds for the agency next year, according to an Ohio Revised Code requirement. These funds will be collected through inside millage and will total \$500,000, a figure determined by the county budget commission. Listed below are the expected amounts that each entity would contribute toward this total. Contributions were calculated based on the entities' current assessed real estate values.

2009

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

TOWNSHIPS	Required
<i>Bloomfield</i>	\$ 4,814.52
<i>Bokescreek</i>	\$ 6,503.57
<i>Harrison</i>	\$ 14,811.28
<i>Jefferson</i>	\$ 22,016.98
<i>Lake</i>	\$ 7,867.40
<i>Liberty</i>	\$ 14,747.61
<i>McArthur</i>	\$ 15,600.64
<i>Miami</i>	\$ 5,718.29
<i>Monroe</i>	\$ 15,412.75
<i>Perry</i>	\$ 37,407.73
<i>Pleasant</i>	\$ 7,044.15
<i>Richland</i>	\$ 28,593.21
<i>Rushcreek</i>	\$ 15,351.24
<i>Stokes</i>	\$ 72,126.90
<i>Union</i>	\$ 7,679.82
<i>Washington</i>	\$ 33,519.33
<i>Zane</i>	\$ 20,098.64

MUNICIPALITIES	Required
<i>Belle Center</i>	\$ 4,921.84
<i>Bellefontaine</i>	\$ 110,639.72
<i>DeGraff</i>	\$ 7,391.10
<i>Huntsville</i>	\$ 2,514.13
<i>Lakeview</i>	\$ 6,183.62
<i>Quincy</i>	\$ 2,682.06
<i>Ridgeway</i>	\$ 494.68
<i>Rushsylvania</i>	\$ 2,459.25
<i>Russells Point</i>	\$ 15,053.88
<i>Valley Hi</i>	\$ 1,059.83
<i>West Liberty</i>	\$ 11,966.21
<i>West Mansfield</i>	\$ 3,979.61
<i>Zanesfield</i>	\$ 1,340.01

Grand Total \$500,000.00