

Slight Boost in State Aid

Preliminary figures show that the Sylvania Township's share of the Local Government Fund will increase slightly for 2014.

The fund, a conduit for state money to Sylvania Township and other local governments, has been diminishing since 2010 when the money the township received was \$322,902.

It was only slightly less in 2011, but for last year the reduction was to \$218,045.

The township this year expects to get \$176,218, another substantial reduction.

Although there had been concern that state funding would be cut again for 2014, John Zeitler, township administrator, said recently released numbers indicate the township will get \$176,300.46.

It is an increase of \$82.06 over the amount expected this year through the fund.

Mr. Zeitler said it is a welcome change from the recent trend from state government of cuts in funding to local jurisdictions.

He acknowledged that the increase is minimal, but that the importance is that it is not another cut.

For comparison, the local government fund in 2008 provided nearly \$371,000 to the township.

In the future he said the local funding will be tied to the state's general fund budget so that when it increases, so will the total flowing to the township.

He said that throughout the series of cuts, the township has made the adjustments which were necessary, and that services to township residents have been maintained.

John Jennewine, president of the township trustees, echoed Mr. Zeitler's comments and added that it has been difficult, but "we've been able to provide the services residents have become accustomed to and that they want."

He added that township managers and employees had recognized the financial facts as they were and worked to keep services at a high level. Employees have worked hard and found ways to be more efficient in order to keep up the level of service to the public, Mr. Jennewine added.

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