

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT - (Continued)
BUDGET MESSAGE

The 2007 budget contains a slight increase in the Township portion of the tax rate. This increase is due to state mandated costs, tax appeals that have been finalized by settlements and by the court, as well as pending appeals from prior years. In addition, increased appropriations have been required due to the escalating costs for workers' compensation, health, prescription, dental premiums, pension, and fuel costs. The municipal open space tax rate will remain at \$0.01 for the fourth year in a row, which will generate \$383,000.00.

The estimated tax rates for the Morris School District portion of the budget and the county portion will increase slightly. This includes the County Open Space Trust Tax at \$0.0450 and the County Park Commission's Development Tax of \$0.0025.

Tax Rates

	Estimated 2007	Actual 2006
Morris School District	\$1.318	\$1.274
Morris County Government, including County Open Space and Park Commission Development Tax	\$0.350	\$0.331
Morris Township	* \$0.524	\$0.514
Township Open Space	<u>* \$0.010</u>	<u>\$0.011</u>
	\$2.20	\$2.13

Note: All rates are per \$100 of assessed value

* Morris Township portion, including open space, represents an overall tax rate increase of 1.71 percent.

Distribution of Your Tax Dollar

2007 Estimated

Morris School District	\$0.60
Morris County Government	** 0.16
Morris Township	<u>** 0.24</u>
	\$1.00

** Includes Open Space

This budget provides the resources to continue the high level of services delivered to residents in the past. Provisions are included to adequately address anticipated increases in the cost of employee compensation and benefits.