

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP PRESENTS PRELIMINARY 2009 BUDGET

BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP, PA, NOVEMBER 11, 2008: In the preliminary 2009 budget, improvements to roads were of primary concern. It became obvious in early 2008 that our financial needs for road improvements would require funding above and beyond our normal revenue streams. The proposed 2009 budget includes a real estate tax based on 12 mills, 5 of which are reserved strictly for road repair and reconstruction. At 12 mills, the average tax for a property owner in Bear Creek Township would be \$ 52 per year. In 2005, the millage rate was eliminated on the assumption that revenues from the Bald Mountain Wind Farm would replace this tax. This did not happen, and in fact that decision cost the Township approximately \$70,000 in lost revenue over the last four years. In 2009 the Board will develop a long term strategic plan for regular maintenance and improvement of township roads. In addition to this millage, the Township remains committed to seeking other sources of revenue to help

fund this and other projects. Since January 1st of this year, we have applied for over \$ 400,000 in grants and have secured \$ 100,000 to date. We are still awaiting responses on the other applications. Through a private/public partnership agreement with Mohegan Sun, we have been able to install a traffic light at the intersection of Route 115 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike at no cost to the Township, saving over \$ 300,000 in the process. We plan on building on these successes in 2009 and beyond. The 2009 budget will officially be voted on at the December 1st public meeting.

In other township news, our recycling program will launch this Saturday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Recreation Fields. We will be accepting newspaper, cardboard, and comingled glass, plastic, and cans. In addition it was announced that the Township has applied for gaming grants for a new fire truck, improved school zone signage, and a wireless surveillance system

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