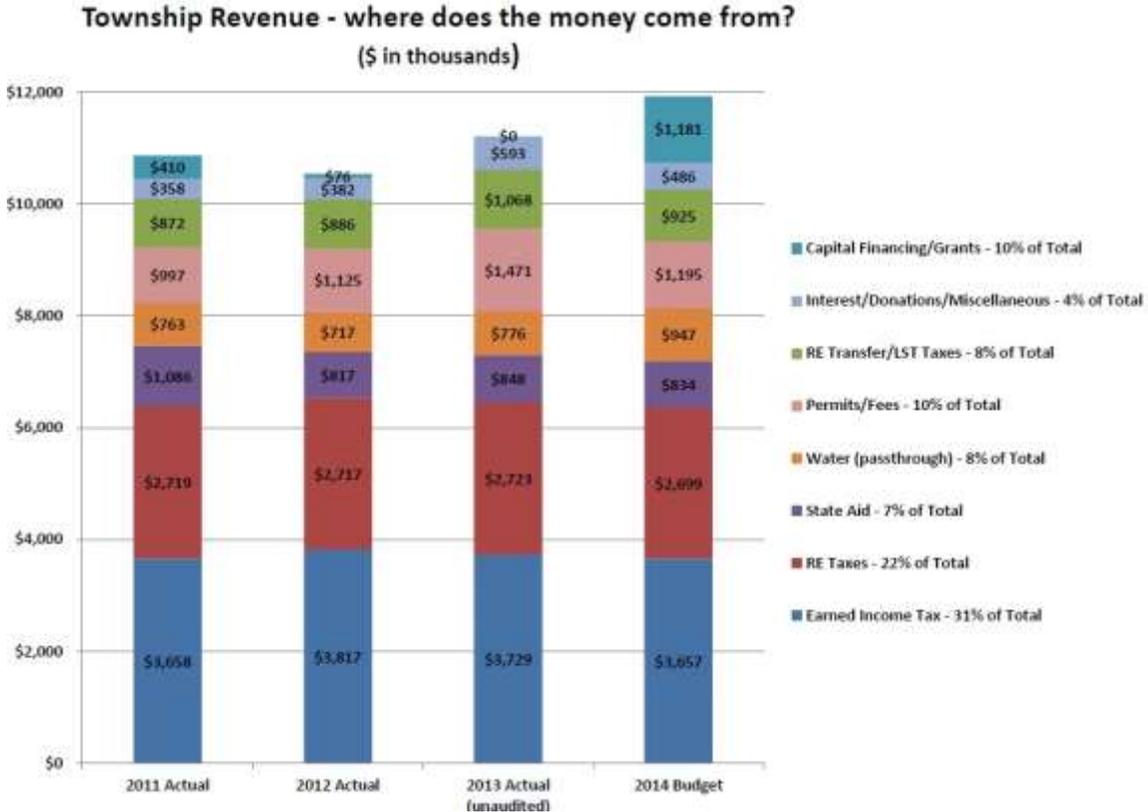


Property Taxes Alone Don't Even Cover the Cost of Police Protection

Resident volunteers on the Ways and Means Committee help the Board of Supervisors solve today's issues and plan the future. They make our finances easier to understand.

Together we enjoy a responsive police department, a well-used park system and a dedicated staff that serves us well. Considering many of us don't realize that property taxes alone don't cover police protection, what else should we be aware of?



Earned income tax shown in medium blue at the bottom of the chart is our most important funding source at 31% of the total. Half of the 1% you pay comes to the township; the other half supports the school system. Naturally it plummets in a recession and as more residents retire, that lost revenue will have to be replaced.

Property taxes are a stable funding source. They provide 22% of our needs as you see in the barn red color of the graph. If you thought earned income tax and property taxes provide most our revenue you are not alone. Together they supply slightly more than half of what we need.

Where we get the other half.

State aid (the purple box) contributes 7% from pension cost assistance and our share of the state liquid fuels tax for road maintenance.

The orange block shows money from the water department to cover costs paid on their behalf through township accounts like benefit contributions, labor costs, etc.

Permits and user fees (the rose colored block) help us keep construction activity safe and compliant with building codes. Permits also help us maintain the quality of township living through regulation of development and best management practices for land use. User fees offset the cost of recreational programs and maintenance of the fields and parks. Fees paid to the township by Cable TV companies are part of this category as are law enforcement costs we are allowed to recover.

Transfer tax collections rise and fall with the prices and activity as local real estate is bought and sold. Together with the local services tax they comprise 8% of total as shown in the green block.

Revenue classified as other shown in the violet block adds up to 4%. This includes interest earned, miscellaneous receipts and donations to projects like Save Kids Castle. Donations go into a special account from which the township writes the check.

Seen in the aqua blue block, grants from government agencies and local organizations like PECO and Foundations promote projects like the sensory trail, bike and hike pathways along the Neshaminy Creek with links to New Britain train station and Peace Valley Park. Availability changes drastically from year to year.

We want to keep you in the loop on what's going on in your township. Ways and Means Committee meetings are usually the last Wednesday of the month at 7PM and all are invited. In future newsletters we'll discuss where it goes and the status of our reserves.

Lee Schwarz