

## News from Avon Township

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Benjamin Franklin, who would have celebrated his 312<sup>th</sup> birthday today, once wrote, “in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” Fortunately, for most of us, tax season is still a few months away. But, not for the Avon Township Supervisors.

We are rapidly approaching Township tax time. In early February the Supervisors hold the annual Board of Audit meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to insure that the Township has been a good steward of your tax dollars and to audit our accounts. Franklin perhaps anticipated the need for this process when he wrote, “Beware of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship.”

The first thing the Supervisors will do is to examine the claims that have been paid by the Township during the year. At least one claim from every month is randomly selected and compared to the records maintained independently by the Clerk and Treasurer.

Then, the Supervisors will set a budget and recommend the amount of taxes that need to be levied on residents in the following year. The Town levy for the past several years has not changed (\$424,100).

The levy dollars are divided among four different funds. The Road & Bridge fund provides money for resurfacing roads, mowing ditches, patching potholes, and related work. The Fire Fund is used to pay the Townships’ portion of the expenses for the Avon Fire Department. General Revenue funds are used for everything from copier paper to electricity to paying the Bond for the Town Hall. Capital Reserve funds are set aside for anticipated expenses such as replacing our electronic voting machines.

Once the Supervisors suggest a levy amount, it must be approved by a vote of Township residents at the Annual Meeting (always the second Tuesday of March). This system provides a truly democratic way for residents to determine Township priorities and needs. As Franklin wrote, “When you’re good to others, you’re best to yourself.”

Finally, the Township summarizes the audit in a report that is read at the Annual Meeting. Past reports are available on our website ([www.avontownship.org](http://www.avontownship.org)).

Everyone is welcome to attend the upcoming Avon Township Board of Audit meeting on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. If you come you will see that the Supervisors are careful stewards of our taxes. They certainly agree with Franklin that it's "a well spent penny that saves a groat."

Happy 312<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Ben!