

**KAREN M. N. AUSTIN, CPA**  
**CHESTER TOWNSHIP FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

Dear Chester Twp. Residents,

Here are the financial reports for Chester Township as of the end of 2008, with 2007 shown for comparison purposes.

From February, 2003, through December, 2008, the General Fund took in \$ 1,324,124 in Estate Taxes; Interest Income of \$ 514,488; Cable Franchise Fees of \$ 268,109; and net restitution from the Spellman theft of approximately \$ 666,000 for a total of \$ 2,772,721.

Included in the restitution from the Spellman theft was the settlement of the Bank One lawsuit during 2008 in which Chester Township received \$ 390,000 from this settlement netted against approximately \$ 90,000 in expenses. The Trustees advanced \$ 200,000 to the Road Dept. at the beginning of 2009, so that the Road Dept. had sufficient money to pay bills at the beginning of 2009. Other than that, there are no concrete plans for the money by the Board of Trustees at this time but several projects are on the table. They are evaluating supplementing the paving of Sperry Rd. between Sherman and Mayfield Rd. (an approximate distance of .8 miles of road) with about \$ 600,000 of this money. They are also looking to demolish the four buildings east of Parkside Park so the land could potential be added to the Park. Also, they want to supplement the Road Dept. by transferring money to the Road Dept. to make sure that the roads scheduled to be repaved this year will be done and finally give the Road Dept. sufficient carryover funding for 2010.

The Trustees decided to grant all 3 inside mills of property tax to the Road Dept. at budget time in August, 2008, for fiscal year 2009, mainly to help with that Departments funding shortfall. Chester is the only Township in Geauga County which does not allocate any of the inside mills from property taxes to the General Fund. So for 2009, the Township General Fund will not receive any property tax dollars to pay for General Fund expenses, which are currently appropriated at \$ 837,522. The General Fund will also receive \$ 17,425 less in anticipated receipts from Undivided Local Government Distributions from the State. Anticipated receipts to the General Fund for 2009 are \$ 477,338, thus reducing the Unencumbered Balance by another \$ 360,184.

Please note that the ending unencumbered balances per Fund for a year should be about 25% of the expected expenditures for the coming year. The General Fund should also include a capital improvement carryover fund, which it current does not. Most Townships utilize collected Estate Taxes alone or in combination with other revenue sources from the General Fund to maintain the capital improvement fund. Based on 2009 Permanent Appropriations the carryovers should be approximately the following: General Fund - \$ 250,000 plus the capital improvement carryover; Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund - \$ 10,000; Gasoline Tax Fund - \$ 40,000; Road & Bridge Fund - \$ 500,000; Cemetery Fund - \$ 6,000; Police Fund - \$ 400,000; Fire Fund - \$ 300,000; EMS & Fire Rescue Fund - \$ 50,000.

I would urge residents to voice your input to the Board of Trustees as to how you want to see the Township's General Fund Dollars spent! Your input is critically important.

**CASH SUMMARY BY FUND LESS ENCUMBERANCES - CHESTER TOWNSHIP, GEAUGA COUNTY**

FROM 1/1/08 TO 12/31/08

FUND NAME 2008	Starting Cash/Fund Balances	Receipts 1/1 to 12/31	Expenditures 1/1 to 12/31	Ending Cash/Fund Balances	Encumbrances at 12/13/08	Unencumbered Balances 12/31/08
General Fund	\$ 2,128,246.09	\$ 1,443,263.15	\$ (733,187.85)	\$ 2,838,321.39	\$ (2,532.82)	\$ 2,835,788.57
Motor Vehicle License	4,056.47	29,118.38	(33,000.00)	174.85	0.00	174.85
Gasoline Tax	21,544.71	133,653.91	(155,198.62)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Road & Bridge	281,696.34	1,597,642.12	(1,718,247.86)	161,090.60	(15,072.14)	146,018.46
Cemetery	19,953.49	7,727.50	(13,452.66)	14,228.33	0.00	14,228.33
Cemetery Bequest	726.03	10.45	0.00	736.48	0.00	736.48
Police	1,095,992.41	1,658,012.95	(1,395,795.61)	1,358,209.75	(4,645.50)	1,353,564.25
Fire	536,288.47	1,029,728.19	(1,027,461.09)	538,555.57	(8,432.32)	530,123.25
Enforcement & Education	0.00	2,080.00	0.00	2,080.00	0.00	2,080.00
EMS - Ambulance Billing	239,125.41	201,988.15	(185,840.22)	255,273.34	0.00	255,273.34
Special (Road) Assessments	11,323.14	88,123.88	(87,517.22)	11,929.80	0.00	11,929.80
Miscellaneous (3 Funds)	8,883.53	0	0.00	8,883.53	0.00	8,883.53
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 4,347,836.09</b>	<b>\$ 6,191,348.68</b>	<b>\$ (5,349,701.13)</b>	<b>\$ 5,189,483.64</b>	<b>\$ (30,682.78)</b>	<b>\$ 5,158,800.86</b>

**CASH SUMMARY BY FUND LESS ENCUMBERANCES - CHESTER TOWNSHIP, GEAUGA COUNTY**

FROM 1/1/07 TO 12/31/07

FUND NAME 2007	Starting Cash/Fund Balances	Receipts 1/1 to 12/31	Expenditures 1/1 to 12/31	Ending Cash/Fund Balances	Encumbrances at 12/13/07	Unencumbered Balances 12/31/07
General Fund	\$ 1,251,646.93	\$ 1,643,540.30	\$ (766,941.14)	\$ 2,128,246.09	\$ (125,862.24)	\$ 2,002,383.85
Motor Vehicle License	12,249.42	31,807.05	(40,000.00)	4,056.47	0.00	4,056.47
Gasoline Tax	63,161.60	143,367.41	(184,984.30)	21,544.71	(5,015.70)	16,529.01
Road & Bridge	231,421.56	1,568,327.15	(1,518,052.37)	281,696.34	(77,095.46)	204,600.88
Cemetery	31,806.36	7,395.00	(19,247.87)	19,953.49	0.00	19,953.49
Cemetery Bequest	697.92	28.11	0.00	726.03	0.00	726.03
Police	809,665.84	1,648,762.82	(1,362,436.25)	1,095,992.41	(15,221.27)	1,080,771.14
Fire	701,068.63	1,025,576.68	(1,190,356.84)	536,288.47	(26,815.77)	509,472.70
EMS - Ambulance Billing	96,913.75	187,084.97	(44,873.31)	239,125.41	(130,200.00)	108,925.41
Special (Road) Assessments	9,700.31	89,838.41	(88,215.58)	11,323.14	0.00	11,323.14
Miscellaneous (3 Funds)	8,883.53	0	0.00	8,883.53	0.00	8,883.53
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 3,217,215.85</b>	<b>\$ 6,345,727.90</b>	<b>\$ (5,215,107.66)</b>	<b>\$ 4,347,836.09</b>	<b>\$ (380,210.44)</b>	<b>\$ 3,967,625.65</b>

A review of 2008 versus 2007, receipts decreased by \$ 154,379 and expenditures increased by \$ 134,593 resulting in a \$ 288,972 negative cash swing. The Township's cash position from 2007 to 2008 increased by \$ 841,647 versus the increase from 2006 to 2007 of \$ 1,130,620.

If at anytime you have a question or would like more information please call me at Township Hall 440-729-7058, cell 440-477-5117 or email me at [austintaxx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:austintaxx@sbcglobal.net). Thank you for allowing me to serve you and for your continued support.

Karen M. N. Austin, CPA