

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
Room 1058, IGCN – 100 North Senate
Indianapolis, IN 46204

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST)
OF MADISON TOWNSHIP, MORGAN) **A23-081**
COUNTY, FOR AN EXCESS LEVY)
DUE TO THREE-YEAR GROWTH)

The Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) has reviewed an appeal by Madison Township (“Township”) for an excess levy in the amount of \$110,000 to its fire maximum levy due to three-year growth. Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-13 allows the Department to grant permission to a civil taxing unit to increase its maximum levy if the Department finds that the quotient determined under Step Six of the following formula is equal to or greater than one and two-hundredths (1.02):

Step 1: Determine the three calendar years that most immediately precede the ensuing calendar year:

2023, 2022, and 2021

Step 2: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the civil taxing unit's total assessed value of all taxable property divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.:

Township assessed values for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:

<i>2020:</i>	<i>449,658,156</i>
<i>2021:</i>	<i>494,987,406</i>
<i>2022:</i>	<i>539,672,755</i>
<i>2023:</i>	<i>689,315,622</i>

Step 2 quotients:

<i>2021/2020:</i>	<i>1.1008</i>
<i>2022/2021:</i>	<i>1.0903</i>
<i>2023/2022:</i>	<i>1.2773</i>

Step 3: Sum the results of Step 2 and divide by three:

1.1561 ((1.1008+1.0903+1.2773)/3)

Step 4: Compute separately, for each of the calendar years determined in Step 1, the quotient (rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth (0.0001)) of the sum of the total assessed value of all taxable property in all counties divided by the sum determined under this Step for the calendar year immediately preceding the particular calendar year.

Statewide average quotients for 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively:

1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481

Step 5: Add the Step 4 results and divide by three:
1.0804 ([1.0392; 1.0541; 1.1481]/3)

Step 6: Divide the Step 3 results by the Step 5 results:
1.0700 (1.1561/1.0804)

The maximum amount that the Department may award is the amount by which Step 3 exceeds the maximum levy growth quotient (“MLGQ”) as calculated according to Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-2 (this amount is 1.04 or 4% for 2024; since 1.0700 is greater than 1.020, the Township is eligible for a three-year growth appeal):
0.1161 (11.61%) (1.1561-1.0400)

The Township’s 2023 maximum fire levy is \$880,206. This is the most recent fire maximum levy that the Department can use as the basis for an adjustment. Multiplying this figure by the 11.61% growth factor calculated above results in a figure of \$102,212, which is the maximum for which the Township could qualify under the statutory formula. Under Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-12(a), the Township must also show that it is unable to perform its government functions without this increase.

The Township states in its appeal that the excess levy is necessary “to prevent [the Township’s] fire and EMS services, which are already inadequate, from becoming unacceptable.” The Township states that it is becoming more urbanized and most of its growth is attributed to residential properties, “primarily due to families migrating from Indianapolis/Marion County to surrounding townships.” The Township claims that its fire and EMS services are inadequate because “of substandard compensation and insufficient staffing levels,” citing to an NFPA standard that, for a rural area, 6 staff must be able to respond within 14 minutes. The Township then states that the fire department operates on a 24/48 operational shift, therefore it must maintain 18 fully-staffed firefighters, but it currently staffs only 12 and has to rely on part-time fighters to meet the NFPA standard.

The Township states the highest priority is to fund health insurance and to hire an additional full-time paramedic. The Township claims hiring the paramedic is necessary in order to maintain the fire department’s status as an Advanced Life Support provider. The Township then claims that inadequate pay will risk losing staff to neighboring fire departments. Therefore, the Township also says “it is in the Township’s best interest to increase the salary of the firefighters or provide health insurance to their firefighters.”

The Township’s Form 3 states an excess levy amount of \$110,000 in the Township Fire and EMS Fund. The Township received a permanent excess levy for its fire maximum levy for pay-2022 in the amount of \$9,572 and pay-2023 in the amount of \$27,747. The Township also received an adjustment to its fire maximum levy under Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18-28 for pay-2023 in the amount of \$73,617. The resolution approving submission of the appeal indicates a 2-1 vote by the Township Board. The Township states in the appeal the Boardmember voting no did so because he also opposed the Township’s 2024 budget.


After a review of the petition, the Department, following Ind. Code § 6-1.1-18.5-12 and 13, and in consideration of all evidence provided, finds as follows:

APPROVED WITH MODIFICATION:

The Township's excess levy appeal is approved in the amount of **\$102,212**. This figure reflects the amount for which the Township qualifies under the statutory three-year growth formula and does not exceed the amount for which the Township advertised and petitioned the Department. This is a one-time, permanent increase.

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of this Department on this 6 day of December, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Shackle', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Shackle, Commissioner