

Miami Township Community Action Team (CAT) – Meeting #2 Summary

Date: November 24, 2025

The second meeting of the Community Action Team (CAT) continued the group's review of the current state of Miami Township's Police, Fire, and EMS services, with a particular focus on millage, levy performance, and long-term service needs.

Review of Millage and Levy Performance

Miami Township Finance Director Kelly Flanigan provided an extensive overview of current millage and levy structures. The group reviewed how millage works, including the example that 1 mill equals \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value, which would be approximately \$105 per year on a \$105,000 home.

The team examined the expected lifespan of potential levy amounts:

- 1.0 mill projected to last until 2027
- 2.0 mills projected until 2029
- 3.0 mills projected until 2032

A spreadsheet was reviewed showing current millage rates and conservative revenue estimates for 2025 and beyond.

Inside vs. Outside Millage

- Inside millage (unvoted) is capped at 10 total mills and is shared among multiple local governments. It is the only part of property taxation that captures increases in reassessed property values.

- Miami Township currently receives 2.2 mills of inside millage, divided between the General Fund and Road & Bridge Fund.
- Outside millage consists of all voter-approved levies.
 - Miami Township currently has 27.31 mills in outside millage.

Levy History

The group reviewed which levies include rollback and homestead exemptions. Levies passed before 2013 include these reductions, while levies passed after 2013—including the 2015 Safety Services levy and 2018 Road Levy—do not.

The team noted that levy revenues remain flat over time and do not keep pace with the rising cost of services.

Department Follow-Up from CAT Meeting #1

Police and Fire representatives shared follow-up information requested previously, including:

- Response-time data
- Calls for service
- Vehicle mileage and usage

These were presented as a deeper dive into the operational realities of current service levels.

Financial Breakdown and Historical Review

Finance Director Flanigan also:

- Provided a detailed breakdown of township financials

- Reviewed historic levy information
- Clarified distinctions between inside and outside millage

Discussion Topics

The team discussed:

- The concept of sunset millage, with many members noting it could create community concerns if viewed as a short-term promise followed by a required future levy.
- Overall needs and potential funding approaches.
- General consensus that a future levy may fall somewhere in the 2.9 to 3.7 mill range, based on early discussions.

Homework & Follow-Up Requests

CAT members identified several items they want prepared for Meeting #3, including:

Millage & Tax Structure

- Comparison of effective millage vs. voted millage
- Effective rates of the township's levies compared to accepted rates
- Breakdown of the percentage of tax burden on residents vs. businesses

Historical and Operational Comparisons

- A detailed look at 2015 vs. 2025, including:
 - Township growth and development
 - Safety services call volume and operational data

- Cost of equipment and vehicle replacements
- An overview of steps taken by the township to curb or reduce costs
- Actions taken to offset rising costs
- Documentation showing how the 2015 levy rate was determined

Public Communication

- Explanation of how the township has historically educated the public about Police, Fire, and EMS services
- Information on efforts to make the organization lean and efficient before considering new funding