

The Beech Grove 1001 Impact Task Force, a non-governmental committee formed by Mayor Wright in September 2009, was charged with the task of recommending a proposal to address the decrease in revenue resulting from legislation which permanently reduces property tax revenue for the City of Beech Grove. Over the past eight months, the task force has met regularly to review the Mayor's proposal for addressing the revenue decrease, and review recommendations from various citizens and ideas developed by the task force members. Findings of the 1001 Task Force include:

Impact of 2008 State of Indiana House Bill 1001:

- House Bill 1001 provides property tax relief, with some property owners in Beech Grove paying 40% less property taxes in 2010 compared to two years ago.
- Because of House Bill 1001, the City of Beech Grove will receive about \$1.6 million less in property tax revenue from the State of Indiana in 2010 compared with 2008. This decrease represents about 30% less revenue for the City which leaves the question: what city services should change to accommodate the revenue loss?
- Also in HB 1001, property taxes are capped at 1% of property values for homeowners so the decrease in property tax revenues to the City of Beech Grove is permanent. Adjustments to the operating budget must be implemented in order to offset the current and future revenue decrease.

Impact of 2008 State of Indiana House Bill 1204:

- In the December 2007 Kernan-Shepard report to the Indiana General Assembly titled "Streamlining Local Government," recommendation number six is to "consolidate emergency public safety dispatch by county or multi-county region."
- House Bill 1204 which became state law in 2008, requires consolidation of dispatch services in Marion County by December 31, 2014. Sometime during the next four years, Beech Grove dispatch will be required by state law to consolidate with other dispatch services in Marion County.

Thank You to Beech Grove Communications Employees:

The task force recognizes the outstanding work of our Beech Grove dispatch personnel. Within the first week the task force was formed, a recommendation to Mayor Wright was to recognize their contributions to public safety. The proposed 2010 budget was changed to fund the dispatch area through the end of 2010. Also, an agreement was reached with the dispatch union that if dispatch is transitioned before the end of 2010, Beech Grove Communications personnel still employed by Beech Grove at the time of the transition will receive pay through the end of 2010.

Alternatives:

After looking in detail at two possible options for the transfer of dispatch services, the task force believes the most reasonable action financially for the city is to begin a transition to Indianapolis Metropolitan Communications. Additionally, this option is potentially more advantageous for the existing Beech Grove Communications employees.

Recommendation and Next Steps:

Prior to making their final recommendation regarding dispatch, the task force held a public meeting attended by approximately 50 individuals. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: to provide a

task force update and to give citizens the opportunity to provide alternatives for funding dispatch and identify areas where City of Beech Grove expenses can be decreased.

Based on all the findings above, the task force recommended to Mayor Wright to transfer and consolidate Beech Grove's dispatch service with Indianapolis Metropolitan Communications as soon as possible.

The task force will continue to meet to consider various proposals submitted by citizens of Beech Grove as well as proposals developed within the committee to address future budget cutting options that may be necessitated by future revenue decreases.

The Beech Grove 1001 Impact Task Force

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