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Forks Township mobile home owners plead for tax relief

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By **TONY NAUROTH**

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FORKS TWP. | About 20 over-55 residents of two mobile home parks sat silently Thursday night as township supervisors explained why the residents must pay this year's 10 percent tax increase like everyone else.

The group's argument that their mobile homes are licensed motor vehicles and should be classified as personal property, not real estate, did not fly.

Spokespersons for Jacob Farms mobile home park between Kesslersville Road and Sullivan Trail and Lockwood Congress Homeowners' Association at Abbey Road and Penny Lane said they came to the meeting to ask the supervisors for tax relief.

"We pay for our own street repairs, our own snow removal, our street lights," they said.

Because the communities they live in are for residents 55 and older, they believe they should get a break on school taxes.

Supervisor Erik Chuss said school taxes are a kind of "pay-it-forward" system and related a story of another man who had once asked same question. Chuss said he had responded, "Did you graduate from high school?"

"Yes."

"Well, who paid for your education?"

Supervisors Chairman David Howell said the board's hands are tied.

"The state requires us to have a balanced budget," Howell said. Township Solicitor Karl Kline said legal precedents from the 1960s establish that mobile home owners must pay property taxes.

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