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Forks Township supervisors raise real estate tax 10 percent for 2009

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FORKS TWP. | Supervisors voted unanimously Thursday night to raise township real estate taxes by 10 percent over last year.

The tax rate went up from 4.6 mills to 5.1 mills. The owner of a home assessed at \$100,000 would pay \$510 in township real estate taxes. That's a \$51 increase.

One mill equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value.

A typical taxpayer will see a \$39 increase, supervisors said. The total budget for 2009 is set at almost \$7.5 million. Pennsylvania, Northampton County and Easton Area School District real estate taxes are assessed separately.

The township Web site, www.forkstownship.org, notes that tax bills are sent out in early February.

"If a mortgage company pays your taxes, it is the property owner's responsibility to send the tax bill to their mortgage company," the Web site says.

The tax bill is discounted by 2 percent if paid by April 1, 2009. After that the basic rate applies until May 31.

"After May 31 all unpaid tax bills will have a 10 percent penalty added," according to the Web site.

Township real estate taxes unpaid by Dec. 31, 2009, will be turned over to the Northampton County Tax Claim office.

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