

To Baroda Township Residents,

Below is information regarding answers to questions that have been asked about the Baroda Police Millage to be on the ballot on August 2, 2022. Additional questions from you are welcome.

### **How is our present Police Services Currently Provided?**

Baroda Township/Village police services are provided through the Baroda Lake Township Police Department, jointly run by Baroda and Lake Township. Currently the Baroda-Lake Police Department provides Baroda Township and Village 20 hours a day of patrol coverage through deployment of 4 full time & additional part time officers.

### **Why Is a Millage Increase for Police Services Being Requested?**

The contract with Lake Township calls for Baroda to contribute a percentage of contract costs roughly in line with the call percentages. Baroda Township has accounted for 32.4% of total department calls over the last 5 years, but Baroda has been paying approximately 22% of the Baroda Lake Police Department over this period. In the current fiscal year Baroda Twp. is contributing \$199,000, or 17.86% of the Baroda Lake police budget. Consequently, police services under the current contract are at risk.

In order to pay for the police services that Baroda residents are now receiving under the current contract the Baroda Township Board unanimously decided to place a Police Millage increase on the August 2nd election ballot. The millage proposal will collect \$357,109 or 32% of the 2022 Baroda-Lake Police budget.

### **How Will This Millage Impact My Taxes?**

This millage, if approved, will cost \$134.42 more per \$100,000 of taxable valuation.

### **What Do Other Municipalities Pay for Police Services?**

Other Local communities provide Police coverage by contracting with the Berrien County Sheriff's Department or by hiring their own police.

As an example, in 2021, the Township of Watervliet paid \$276,560 for 16 hours a day of police coverage contracted from the Berrien County Sheriff. The City of Watervliet pays approximately \$250,000 for its 2 officer city police department covering 1.6 square miles. Combined, the Watervliet City and Township pay in excess of \$500,000 for police services.

### **Could Baroda Just Put a Renewal of the Current Millage for Police Services on the Ballot?**

As mentioned before Baroda is and has been paying for less than the percentage of services provided to Baroda residents with the Baroda-Lake Police Department contract. Lake Township has communicated to Baroda Township regarding the need to follow the funding formula in the contract. Therefore, to get back on track with adequately funding the police services provided to Baroda residents in 2022 and beyond, the increased millage is being put on the August 2nd ballot.

### **I Still Have Questions. How Can I Find Out More About This Millage Proposal?**

The Township Board urges citizens to get their questions answered. Police services are critical to our community. Please do not hesitate to raise questions and get answers at a Township meeting, or directly contact Dennis Krotzer, the Township Supervisor at 269-757-2120.