

Budget discussion reveals disagreement

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Amity Township's preliminary budget numbers for 2012 have raised questions about a plan to add a police officer next year.

At first look, the township is facing a \$186,000 shortfall next year, the supervisors said at their meeting Wednesday night.

Dropping the plan to add an officer would reduce that by \$100,000. Other suggestions were cutting costs in every area or raising taxes.

Supervisors Chairman Robert Yanos said raising taxes is a ridiculous idea given the state of the economy.

"I just don't see how you can raise taxes," Yanos said.

But Supervisor Terry Jones said budget cuts in every department could mean a quality of life loss for the township and he was adamant about the need for an additional police officer.

"I didn't say we had to raise taxes," he said. "Cut a cop and I'm not voting for it."

Jones then cited concerns for public safety without the new officer.

"That hasn't been determined that there will be a loss of service," Yanos said.

"Or safety," Supervisor Kim McGrath added.

"If you're willing to take a chance, put it up to a vote," Jones said.

The budget discussion ended without resolving the differences but will continue at future meetings.

- By Jamie Klein