

No tax increase in Amity Township

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The Amity Township Board of Supervisors unanimously approved on Dec. 2 a no tax increase budget of \$3.9 million for 2010.

The tax rate is 1.8 mills. Property owners pay \$180 for every \$100,000 of assessed value on their properties.

The township will receive \$166,295.33 by recently changing its bank accounts to Fulton Bank and refinancing a 2003 bond of \$1,065,000 to a lower interest rate.

Board supervisor Robert R. Yanos said some of the funds could be used to repair the Geiger Road Bridge.

Township manager Charles E. Lyon said the 2008 repair estimate was \$140,000. The board will consider accepting construction bids this spring for the bridge [repairs.](#)In other business:

The board held a fact-finding meeting meeting on Nov. 28 with the county's Historic Preservation Trust on the viability of installing a 50 to 100 space parking lot (with handicap parking) at the White Horse Tavern at Moratton Village, Old Philadelphia Pike.

The historic village is also a stop along the Thun Trail section of the Schuylkill River Trail.

Member of the Trust's board and township supervisor Scott Stepp provided his fellow supervisors with a sketch plan of the parking area that is proposed to eliminate parking from along Old Philadelphia Pike.

The village is Berks County's first settlement along the Schuylkill River and is comprised of four buildings built in the 1700s by Swedish settlers.

The site includes the Mouns Jones House, built in 1716, the White Horse Tavern, c. 1750-1762, the George Douglass Mansion, c. 1763, and the Covered-Bridge Keeper's House, c. 1780.

The board said after visiting the site and reviewing the sketch that the parking area would not prevent the township from future expansions of its Waste Water Treatment Plant on the adjacent property.

"It's just a concept and it's evolving," said Stepp, adding that the parking area would allow the Trust to hold events and private functions at the White Horse Tavern and at the George Douglass Inn to generate funds for the 501c3 non-profit organization.

He said fundraising events would enable the Trust to complete renovations to the George Douglass Inn for the 300th anniversary of the Mouns Jones House in 2016 and the 300th anniversary of Amity Township in 2019.

TOWNSHIP IN 2019.