

from our budget. Any additional cuts will result in Police officers being laid off. We can not allow our emergency services to decline.

Mr. Martin was quoted in the Newsleader as saying "Macedonia residents aren't in a position to pay those kinds of dollars, given this economy", Mr. Martin, we think residents can **NOT** afford to **NOT** pass this levy right now. The money they are being asked to pay would pale in comparison to homeowner's insurance increasing and property values decreasing. Mr. Martin was also quoted as saying "the 4-mill tax would raise tax bills by as much as \$600 per year. That is not accurate! Mr. Martins comment could have been an error by the Newsleader or Mr. Martin could have been talking about a home valued at \$650,000 if we have any in this city, either way it is misleading and needs to be clarified. The owner of a \$200,000 home would see a tax increase of \$183.75 per year. Which is \$15.31 a month or about .51 cents a day? The key to all of this is informing the residents of the facts.

It is the duty and responsibility of each member of council to stand behind this levy and inform the public of the cities financial situation, giving them accurate information so they can decide what type of city they want to live in.

We have heard phrases like "we need to look at this closer", "we need to examine the budget and see what else could be cut" Each one of you has been on council through more than one budget process. Each of you knows the city budget. With the exception of capital improvements (which has been virtually non-existent for the past two years) and major repair projects, what else can be cut besides manpower? We know there is always something to cut such as \$30.00 a year we spend on policy reviews or the \$140.00 we spend each year to buy and Ohio Revised Code book. We have also been told we will be leaving the Metro Swat team. That will save us about \$3000 a year. All of these things will save pennies compared to the shortfall we must overcome. But more importantly all of these things will negatively impact the service we provide the residents. It is astonishing that council voted last meeting to spend \$2000 for a fence around the Manor house but is willing to cut \$3000 for the Swat team, which by the way is one of the most damaging cuts our department could receive. Our department has had the benefit of not only training with one of the best Swat teams in Ohio but the ability to call out 20 to 30 highly trained professionals at a moments notice. Over the years we have used the SWAT team for some of our most dangerous situations. Thankfully the outcomes have always been good. One can only wonder what the outcome would have been without the resources of the swat team. Until our budget situation is resolved we can hopefully rely on the Summit County SWAT team if a crisis arises. However, the average bill charged to cities for using the County team is around \$5500.00 per call out. That is around \$2500.00 more than we currently pay for a years worth of service in our current team.

The police department has operated on a tight budget for years. Our overtime is very limited and our training is almost nonexistent. The countr^y's economy has brought the cit^y's compounding budget issues to the forefront. We have heard some Councilors say they believe the budget has been mismanaged for the past six years. That type of