Press Release: 12/12/2023

There are several different types of property taxes in the State of Ohio. In the case of public utilities, there are Real Property values and Public Utility Personal Property values. The Auditor’s office determines the value of the real property, and the State of Ohio determines the personal property value.

This upcoming tax year, the Public Utility value of Davis Besse has dropped from over $68 million to just above $14 million. This results in a tax revenue loss of $1.8 million dollars to the Benton Carroll Salem Schools, over a $300,000 loss each to Carroll Township and combined County levies, and a $54,000 loss to the Oak Harbor Public Library.

Not only does this decrease in value result in a loss of tax revenue to our political subdivisions, but it will cause an increase to taxpayers in the Benton Carroll Salem School District. BCS has two fixed sum emergency levies which must bring in the voted sum of money. Because of the value loss, these levies will increase .4 mills each, resulting in an overall .8 mill tax increase to each taxpayer. To put that in terms of dollars, taxpayers will see an approximate increase of $28.00 per $100,000 of appraised value.

Please know that the elected officials of the involved districts are exploring every option to validate these Public Utility numbers. However, the law does not give us any oversight or verification on this matter at this time.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions. 419-734-6740 or asktheauditor@co.ottawa.oh.us

Sincerely,

Jennifer J Widmer
Ottawa County Auditor