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Early budget keeps taxes at 2.5 mills in Hampton

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By Jill Cueni-Cohen

Hampton's tax rate is expected to stay at 2.5 mills under a proposed 2011 budget council approved to be advertised Nov. 17.

Township manager Christopher Lochner said the proposal will be finalized before being presented at a public hearing during council's regular meeting Wednesday.

Holding the millage rate steady for a third consecutive year was at the top of a list of budgetary goals council outlined in August. Other objectives included renegotiating a labor agreement with township personnel and developing an event to celebrate the township's sesquicentennial.

Also during the meeting, council approved taking the next step in entering into electricity and demand response contracts through Energy Savers Inc. According to council President Victor Son, this community program will "allow residents to undercut the rates they could achieve on their own by piggybacking on the township. And it's a \$75,000 savings for the township." Mr. Son noted that Hampton was one of the first municipalities to come up with an energy program 14 years ago, but that was the last time.

Council also approved construction of a new salt storage dome at the Gibsonia Maintenance Facility at Milepost 39.62 on the turnpike. Mr. Son said the old dome will be demolished to make way for a technologically advanced one.

"The new dome will be more hidden from view and cause less disruption to the environment," he explained. The turnpike property is next to Poff Elementary School property.

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