

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION

Paying for State Police Services

The Governor's office did not create the formula used to calculate the costs to municipalities throughout the state. PSP testimony before The House Appropriations Committee was that they (PSP) decided what each municipality should pay to fund their operations and budget request.

PSAB Does Not Support Fee

Gov. Wolf is proposing that all communities would be levied a fee based on the amount of state police assistance they receive, including those with local police departments. While all communities will be charged a fee, communities without local police would be charged more than they would if they had local police, according to information provided by the governor's office.

The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) does **not** support this proposal in its current form. We encourage our members to review the fiscal impacts and contact their legislators with their perspectives on this proposed concept. ~ PSAB Email 2/26/2020

Cost Inconsistency

<i>PSP Barracks</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Pop.</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Per Person</i>	<i>Local Police</i>
Belfast	Glendon Borough	362	\$5,894.85	\$16.28	NO
Belfast	West Easton Borough	1252	\$20,387.70	\$16.28	YES

Tax Anger Shifted To Municipalities

"We were told this is a no tax increase budget, but in order to afford this, municipalities will have to probably raise property taxes." ~ Rep. Ryan Warner, R-Fayette / House Approp. Hearing 2/20/20

"To add one more fee or tax or whatever you want to call it is a big ask for me." ~ Rep. Clint Owlett, R-Tioga / House Approp. Hearing 2/20/20

"I think it's up to the municipalities whether they want to raise taxes or find another way to fund it." ~ PSP Col. Robert Evanchick / House Approp. Hearing 2/20/20

Disproportionate Service Fee

Service fee disproportionately shifts the burden onto taxpayers in poorer rural districts who would pay more per person than those in wealthier, more populated areas. (Philadelphia: Total Cost, \$1.5 Million / Per resident, \$0.97)

Afoul Of State Constitution

The formula as presented is a progressive tax that runs afoul of the Uniformity Clause of the state Constitution, which requires that all taxes be levied equally upon the same class of subjects.

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PSP “SERVICE FEE” INCLUDED IN GOVERNOR WOLF’S PROPOSED 2020-21 BUDGET

WHEREAS West Easton, being recognized as having its own police department, has been assessed the same per resident cost as that of its neighboring community, Glendon Borough, which has no police department;

WHEREAS the proposed service fee uses a “formula” that is inaccurate in its calculations of the fee placed upon West Easton and other municipalities;

WHEREAS the proposed service fee uses a “formula” that comprises ever changing data of median income, PSP barracks costs, number of residents, service calls, local police costs, and other factors in constant flux;

WHEREAS the proposed service fee offers no appeal process, or venue for reconsideration;

WHEREAS the proposed service fee disproportionately shifts the burden onto taxpayers in poorer rural districts who would pay more per person than those in wealthier, more populated areas;

WHEREAS the proposed service fee is a progressive tax that violates the Uniformity Clause of the state Constitution, which requires that all taxes be levied equally upon the same class of subjects;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, The Borough of West Easton Council urges the Pennsylvania State Legislature to vote against Governor Wolf’s proposed PSP Service Fee.

Resolved this 9th Day of March, 2020 by the Borough of West Easton Council in open meeting duly assembled at 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA**

Attested:

Joan Heebner, Secretary

Matthew A. Dees, Council President