

3 township workers laid off to cut budget

■ Those cut include a building inspector; officials said the township's decelerating growth was behind the move.

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In an effort to reduce township expenses, three people were laid off at Bedford Government Center.

Supervisor Walt Wilburn said the receptionist, a secretary and one of the building inspectors were let go.

"That is going to save us about \$120,000 just for the quarter," Mr. Wilburn said.

The land division administrator received a reduction of 25 hours a week as well, Mr. Wilburn said.

Members of the budget committee are working to make additional adjustments and cuts for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Two of the layoffs came from the building department because of a lack of growth and expansion in the township, Mr. Wilburn said.

"The department should pay for itself, and it's not," he said. Dave Manning, finance

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— Walt Wilburn
township supervisor



director, said the township eliminated the mosquito control program to help with the township's budget crisis.

"That will save the township \$72,000 for the year," Mr. Manning said.

The township eliminated \$230,000 in salaries for the year by not replacing employees who left for other positions.

Mr. Manning said the budget for the upcoming fiscal year is "well wrapped-up," but will be watched closely.

"If the township's revenue continues to decline, we may have to make budget reductions," he said.

Mr. Wilburn said he does not expect any more loss of jobs. However, the committee discussed the elimination of the finance director, a move

that could save the township about \$80,000. The committee has not made a decision on that matter.

The township also will cut spending on road construction projects, Mr. Wilburn said.

"We will be doing the normal stuff, like milling, but we are not going to be doing any special projects," he said.

Some of the smaller projects taking place in the township this summer include the milling and paving of Rauch Rd. between Jackman and Secor Rds.; Dean Rd. between Crabb and Minx Rds., and Sterns Rd. between Secor and Summerfield Rd. at the Springbrook Drain.

Over the past few years, the township has participated in several road projects, including a project last summer on

Jackman Rd. between Temperance and Erie Rds. Those projects were funded by self-help money.

Mr. Wilburn said earlier this year that the township received about \$25,000 annually from the Self-Help Road Improvement Fund.

For more than a decade, Monroe County spent more than a half-million dollars a year on roads, using money derived from the delinquent tax revolving fund. The program started in the 1980s when county commissioners took general fund dollars and put them into a road improvement fund. The money ranged from \$200,000 to \$400,000. That money was then matched with funds from the townships and the road commission to generate more road work.

Almost every road in Bedford Township has been repaired with the assistance of the self-help money, Mr. Wilburn said.

In the last three years, Mr. Wilburn said Bedford Township has repaired a little more than 21 miles of roads. Some of those projects were funded by federal grants, but the majority came with assistance from the county's road improvement fund.