

March 10th Ballot FAQ

Why is the Township bonding while collecting a millage?

The Township will plan on two separate bond sales to complete the work in 6 years with a payback over 10 years through the millage. This will provide the Township more money up front to enable work to be completed sooner, creating a savings from inflation, incentives for bidders due to a larger project and creating two three-year plans. While road work will continue throughout 2020, the projects funded by the bond proposal will be planned this year with work to begin in 2021.

How will the Township determine which roads receive priority?

Every identified road will receive the work it needs within seven years. The goal is to bring our average PASER rating from a 3 to a 5-8 at the end of the seven years, so regardless of when your road gets done, rest assured that it will get done.

The need is great across the Township. Road work will be recommended by our engineers based on need and cost efficiency. An independent group of residents with various areas of expertise will develop objective criteria to establish the prioritization of which roads will be done first in consultation with the engineers. That is, the Township may do an entire neighborhood or main road at once if it is more cost efficient.

What is the difference between a millage and Special Assessment District (SAD)?

A millage is voted on by township voters, becomes part of the tax bill, and is based on the Taxable Value (TV) of your property (Not the State Equalized Value (SEV)). A SAD is voted on by the property owners within a neighborhood that is affected by the road improvement project and is specific to the property. The amount of payment is based on the cost of the project, divided by the number of properties receiving the benefit. On the sale of a property, the owner may be responsible for paying off a SAD assessment balance at closing.

What happens after the initial work is completed?

The Township will commit to maintaining good roads. The Township will now be able to dedicate funds for maintenance of Township roads instead of to the impossible task of both maintenance and repair/rebuild. Since 2010, the Township has allocated, more than \$850,000 to Township roads. In 2019 alone, the Township allocated over \$250,000 for the maintenance of Township roads.

How will the residents be assured of the quality of the work?

The Township will require the engineers to establish standards and criteria for the bidding process, review the progress of the work and inspect the work to ensure the standards and criteria are met and within the agreed timeframe. The Ingham County Road Department will also review the recommended improvements to make sure they meet county standards.

What will be done to ensure that the improved roads will be maintained?

All roads that have been brought up to good condition need to have some type of 'topcoat' about every five to seven years to protect the roads. After the bonding funds are used to repair/rebuild the roads, township general funds will be used to fund the protection of the roads.