

The Annual May Township Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th, 7:00 pm at the Township Hall. This is the time we get together to brainstorm the 2020 projects and review the past year's completed work. It is also the meeting where the Taxpayers set the Levy (money) the township board must work with.

We encourage you to attend this important meeting. Of the 500 residents in May Township, only 15-20 participate in the annual meeting and set the Levy which provides most of the funding we receive to repair and maintain over 50 miles of roads. The number of residents setting the Levy is less than 3% of the township population.

The main things our board is responsible to care for are the township hall, our maintenance garage and the roads. The \$200,000 Levy has been the same for approximately the past nine years. This amount is not keeping up with our costs or needs.

Our township hall was built in 1940. It was remodeled in 2000, and recently an office was added for the Clerk and Treasurer to work. The office also provides a safe space to keep the township records which date back to the early 1900's. Prior to this addition, the records were stored in private homes of those filling these positions.

The maintenance garage was built in 1971 and has served us well for many years. However, with larger graders, the size of our building has become an issue along with its deterioration. It is simply falling apart, including the floor. The lighting is poor; there's no heat, no insulation and holes in the walls. The foundation is breaking up, and the walls are pushing off the foundation. We have two road graders at this time. One is stored in our garage, and the other is at our operator's home. There is no room to do maintenance work with the grader inside the garage.

We are asking this year for a tax levy increase to continue the same amount of road work along with saving enough money in 2-3 years to build a new shop with enough space to store our graders and make repairs as well as other maintenance. This building could potentially be used for special events or township functions where additional space is needed. The estimated building cost at this time would be around \$200,000. We will look at low-interest government financing over a ten-year period and hope to have an actual amount by the annual meeting – including the loan interest rate. We feel it is better to complete the building soon as costs only increase each year. We ask you to increase the levy to provide funds for a new building as well as more gravel, spraying and brushing for the roads in the coming years.

Let us share some of our costs: Materials for Road Maintenance: Materials to make Class 5 gravel has been .90 cents a yard – this has gone up to over \$3.00 a yard in some pits. The cost to crush the material two years ago was \$3.25 a yard; the cost to lay the Class 5 on the roads was \$4.50 a yard in 2019. This equals \$8.65 a yard and to put 4" on 1 mile which takes 1100 yards, amounts to \$9,515 per mile of road. To ditch and build up a mile of road, the cost is \$25,000-\$50,000 per mile. The cost of chloride on a mile of road is around \$2,500. Spraying roadside ditches costs between \$6,000 and \$10,000 per year. The cost of grader operators totals approximately \$25,000 each year for grading and plowing snow. The cost of elections has increased to \$4,000, and we have two elections this year.

Gopher Bounty Fee: We currently pay a \$4.00 bounty fee per gopher. This amount is set by the people at the annual meeting. We pay the highest fee in our area. Some townships no longer pay a bounty. Your township board is recommending we change this amount to \$3.00 to be in conformity with the townships around us.

Road Graders: Labor costs are going up, and finding someone to operate the road graders is getting almost impossible. The work force changes and our young people move to where the jobs pay the best. We would like to talk to you at the annual meeting about this issue as well as how often our roads need to be graded, snow plowing, etc. The more that is expected from the public, the higher the cost for the township.

- A. Should we contract with someone else to do our road work?
- B. Should we offer to contract with other townships for their road work and charge a fee?
- C. Are you satisfied with our current work?

*Keeping in mind it is not cheaper to contract

*Timing of getting the road work completed

*What happens when the contracting should stop?

We, the Board, would like to ask everyone to send a representative from their home to the Annual Meeting in March. Let's talk about the

future of May Township's buildings, roads, etc.