

Special Edition of the Brimfield Township Newsletter

October 8, 2015

Brimfield Township Places Additional Road Levy on November 3rd Ballot

Based on input from residents and our road department, the Brimfield Board of Trustees approved placing an additional 1.9 mill tax levy on the November 3, 2015 ballot for the purpose of road repair, maintenance, and construction. **Issue #5** will run for a 5 year term and generate an additional \$428,675.00 per year. If approved by a majority of voters, the levy will cost the owner of a 100K home an additional \$5.54 per month or \$66.50 per year.

Brimfield Township has an existing 0.95 mill road levy that generates \$206,000.00 per year that was recently renewed. Both levies would expire at the end of 2020. The Board of Trustees intends that only one of these two levies be renewed at the end of their 5 year term.

Public Forums scheduled to provide information to voters

Two public forums have been scheduled to provide information to Brimfield residents about the additional road levy. The dates and times for these sessions are:

- Wednesday, October 14th at 6:30pm in the Town Hall community room
- Thursday, October 15th at 1:30pm in the Town Hall community room

Plan to attend one of these sessions to learn and ask questions.

Why is an additional road levy needed?

Issue #5 is needed for the following reasons:

- 1) Local Government Funds and the Estate Tax that were previously received from the State of Ohio have been phased out by State Legislators. These funds were used in part to repair local roads.
- 2) Brimfield Township has experienced a steady increase in the number of new roads constructed in the past 15-20 years. We now have approximately 45 miles of roads to maintain. This number will increase once the Cranberry Creek Development is built out.
- 3) These additional road miles take their toll on plow trucks, snow plows and salt spreading equipment.
- 4) Roads in residential developments that were constructed 15-20 years ago are now in need of resurfacing. Roads in residential developments that were constructed 10 years ago will be in need of resurfacing during the next 5 years.



- 5) Our township roads have fallen into such a state of disrepair that our road crews can't keep up with pothole repairs each year.
- 6) The cost of road salt has tripled in the past 5 years. We now spend over \$65,000.00 per year on road salt, brine and cinders.
- 7) The cost of asphalt has doubled in the past 5 years.



- 8) Residents have contacted the Board of Trustees and encouraged them to place an additional road levy on the ballot.
- 9) Money generated by Issue #5 will be used to focus on resurfacing township roads and streets, and preventative maintenance to extend the life of our roads.
- 10) The cost to resurface one

mile of roadway with asphalt is approximately \$152,000.00.

- 11) The cost to resurface one mile of roadway with a chip seal surface is approximately \$55,000.00.



Brimfield Township is 3-5 years behind on road repairs due to aging roads. Asphalt has doubled in price during the past 5 years. Road salt has tripled in price in the past 3-4 years. The road levy that residents passed 5 years ago and renewed in May of 2015 has been partially offset by the phase out of Local Government Funds and Estate Taxes by the State of Ohio.

As our infrastructure ages there is a need to take preventative steps to ensure that roads will only need to be resurfaced every 15 years. Brimfield Township should be resurfacing 3+ miles of roadway each year so that every mile of road is resurfaced in 15 year cycles. At today's prices, and assuming a 50-50 split between asphalt or chip seal road surface, it will cost just over \$310,000.00 per year to resurface our roads.



At the same time we still need to patch potholes, crack seal road surfaces and take preventative steps to preserve our roads to ensure a 15 year resurfacing cycle. When we add the cost of striping center and edge lines as well as road salt and brine, our annual costs exceed \$400,000.00 per year.

None of these costs consider the amount of time our road crew needs for ditching and culvert repairs, roadside mowing and tree trimming, and cemetery maintenance.



“Without this road levy, we are destined to have more potholes than we have manpower to fill each year...”

Once we have our road maintenance back on a schedule we will only need to renew one of these two road levies in 5 years. Without this road levy we are destined to have more potholes than we had the year before. At the same time our road department will be forced to use less road salt and more cinders during the winter months.



Here is a list of roads have been resurfaced with our current road levy

Our current road levy was first approved in 2010 and began collecting funds in 2011. Over the past 5 years we have been able to resurface the following roads and streets:

- 1) Powdermill Road
- 2) Cline Road
- 3) Sunview Drive
- 4) All streets in Beechcrest development
- 5) Howe Road between S.R.43 and Summit County Line
- 6) Saxe Road between Mogadore Road and Sunnybrook Road
- 7) Sunnybrook Road north of Tallmadge Road to City of Kent line
- 8) Streets in Evergreen development
- 9) Streets in Oakwood Acres development
- 10) Karg Industrial Parkway
- 11) Greenbrier Parkway
- 12) Sherman Road between S.R.43 and Edson Road (funds encumbered for 2016)
- 13) Lor-ron Avenue (funds encumbered for 2016)
- 14) Congress Lake Road (currently underway- see photo below)

