



DOES BROOKS TOWNSHIP NEED A ROAD MILLAGE?

1. How much do road repairs cost?

Road repairs vary with the type of project and existing conditions. Examples: An average cost of 1 mile of blacktop is in excess of \$200,000; To recondition and resurface 1 mile of 56th St. between M-37 and Centerline Ave., the current estimate is \$400,000, because of very poor existing road conditions; The cost to repair 1000 ft of road on Redwood Dr. has been estimated at \$65,000; The average cost to repair 1 mile of gravel road (not paving) is \$80,000; Current brining costs average \$18,000 per year for two applications.

2. How much has Brooks Township spent on road maintenance in the last 6 years?

Brooks Township has spent over \$813,000 for road repairs and brining. For 2011-2012 the township has budgeted \$168,000. This amount includes \$18,000 for brining.

3. Where does Brooks Township receive revenue from?

Brooks Township receives approximately \$100,000 from property taxes each year. The township also receives revenue sharing from the State which is approximately \$244,000. Other miscellaneous funds include cable franchise fees, zoning fees, rental income and others. This amount is approximately \$115,000.

4. Can Brooks Township budget more money for road maintenance?

Brooks Township is required to maintain a certain amount of savings to cover mandated obligations. In the past the township has used savings to cover the budgeted amount for road repairs. The township can not deplete the savings by these amounts any longer.

5. Why can't Brooks Township cut expenses to pay for road repairs?

The township is required to provide an Assessing Department, Zoning Department, conduct elections, collect property taxes, have a Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review and maintain the township offices. The township is also required to have representation for the Fire District and Library District and other committees representing township interests. The township has tried to conduct these activities as economically as possible. In an effort to keep costs down the township board members have not had any salary adjustments since 2007.

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6. How much would a road millage cost a property owner?

The example below is based on a 1-mill road millage. The formula for figuring the amount is as follows: **1 mill (.001) x taxable value = road taxes. For example if your taxable value is \$50,000, your tax for the road millage would be \$50.** All funds collected from a road millage would be kept separately from the township general fund and would only be spent for road repairs. At this time, a 1 mill road millage would generate approximately \$118,000 per year.

7. Would the township continue to budget funds for road repairs from the general fund?

Yes, budgeted funds would be spent on a yearly basis before using any millage generated revenue. This would allow the Township to collect multiple years of millage generated funds for major repair projects. Many of our anticipated repairs will require more revenue than will be available from one year of road millage.

8. Who decides what roads would be repaired?

Recommendations would be made by a committee made up of property owners and township board members to establish a priority of projects. This committee would make recommendations to the township board for approval.

9. What is the Newaygo County Road Commission's responsibility for the roads in Brooks Township?

The Newaygo County Road Commission is responsible for maintaining local roads in a condition that is reasonably safe and convenient for travel. The State of Michigan does not fund the road commission to improve local roads. That is the responsibility of the Township.

This letter is for informational purposes only and is an attempt to answer questions asked by property owners of the Township. There has been no decision made to ask for any millage increase. On October 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. there will be 2nd meeting at the Brooks Township hall to discuss this information and answer any other questions. Please feel free to call the township offices at 231-652-6763 with any questions regarding this information.

MUSKEGON RIVER WATERSHED ASSEMBLY

The MRWA will be conducting a shoreline workshop in Fremont on November 5, 2011 at the NCRESA building at 4747 W. 48th St. The workshop will be from 8:45 am until 4:15 pm.

Go to www.mrwa.org/repository/pdf/brochure-shorescaping.pdf for more information.

NEWAYGO FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

The Newaygo Area Fire/Rescue Command Board along with officials from Brooks Township, Garfield Township and the City of Newaygo are considering a plan to incorporate the First Responder Emergency Medical Unit into the Fire Department. This process will evolve over the next year. Anyone wishing any input please contact the Brooks Township Offices for more information.

NEWAYGO PUBLIC SCHOOL ELECTION

The Newaygo Public Schools will hold their annual election on November 8, 2011. This election had previously been held in May. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. Please remember to bring a picture ID with you. If you would like an absentee ballot you may call the clerk, Jennifer Badgero at 231-652-6763, ext. 110.



ALL FEDERAL BENEFITS WILL BE PAID ELECTRONICALLY, SO ACT NOW!

The U.S. Department of the Treasury will pay all federal benefit and non-tax payments electronically by March 1, 2013. Benefit recipients can choose to receive their payments by **direct deposit** to a bank or credit union account or to a **Direct Express** Debit MasterCard account. Act now to get your money safely and quickly—on time, every time!

Retiring or applying for federal benefits soon? Be Ready

You must choose your preferred electronic payment option when you apply to receive federal benefit payments from the Social Security Administration, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management or Department of Labor (Black Lung).

Already getting federal benefit payments by paper check? Switch today!

You must make the switch from paper federal benefit checks to electronic payments by **March 1, 2013**. Go to GoDirect.org for more information.

If you do not choose an electronic payment by **March 1, 2013**, or at the time you apply for federal benefits, you will receive your payments via the **Direct Express** card so you will not experience any interruption in payment.

**IF YOU ARE ALREADY RECEIVING YOUR BENEFITS ELECTRONICALLY
THIS WILL NOT EFFECT YOU!**

MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWNSHIP FOR MORE INFORMATION!

BURN PERMITS

If you would like to burn debris in Brooks Township you need to call the Cadillac Management Unit at 231-745-4651 or 1-866-922-2876. You may also go to the DNR website at www.michigandnr.com/burnpermits.



Brooks Township Office
P.O. Box 625
490 Quarterline
Newaygo, MI 49337

Brooks Township Meeting Dates and Times

Brooks Township Board

Third Tuesday of the Month

Les Salacina , Supervisor

Jennifer Badgero, Clerk

Christina Haynor, Treasurer

Marc Libants, Trustee

Billie Deater, Trustee

Planning Commission

Fourth Monday of the Month

Jim Dutkiewicz

Mike Bouwer

Billie Deater

Phil Knape

Ruthann Brunsting

Mark Pitzer

Mike McHugh

Zoning Board of Appeals

Meets as needed

Dick Besser

Christina Haynor

Frank Janusz

Cory Nelson

Mark Pitzer

Dave Warren (alternate)

Meetings are held at the Brooks Township Hall at 7 p.m.