

Supervisor's Report, January 2023

There is not much to report this month, between the holidays and the time I took off with Covid.

I've been looking forward to budgeting and I want to share some insights about our challenges for 2023.

I would like to do things a little differently this year. I would like to start with a meeting to look at our infrastructure needs and to hear from you how you think we should be planning to address those needs. I have already shared with you a draft of a three year budget. I am updating that draft and find that if we pulled infrastructure out into a separate millage and collected the Property Tax Administration Fee to the fullest extent allowed by law, our General Fund budget would balance without an extra voted operations millage. (We are only allowed to charge the Administration Fee to the extent that it covers our expenditures on assessing and tax collection, in our case about one third of one percent.)

It might be easier to pass a millage devoted entirely to infrastructure. I do not yet have a handle on our 10 year needs, but a conservative tally of our immediate needs looks something like this:

Seawall		600,000
Sidewalks		250,000
Cemeteries		
Parks		
Roads		300,000
Office		
Total		1,150,000

In any case, we need the following meetings:

- Infrastructure planning
- General Fund
- Harbor (ops and dredging)
- Fire (ops and equipment/training)
- Sewer (ops and capital improvement)
- PC, Zoning, Assessor, ZBO, BOR
- Parks and Rec, Cemetery
- Budget wrap up

I have created a fairly extensive Doodle Poll that picks up possible meeting dates from now until the end of February. Here is the link: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e91xW0Be> I hope that each of you will take ten minutes or so to go through this poll and mark any and all dates and times that you are available. Please do this soon, as I want to get the TB availability set and start working on the board and committee chairs to get them scheduled. I have omitted meeting dates the week of January 18th to 25th, as my mom's health is failing and I will be traveling to New York State to see her, weather permitting.

Sunset Shores

This project continues to frustrate me. Marie Korson has a new attorney, who has now approached me with an ask that the Township reimburse Marie for the attorney fees that she incurred during the course of trying to get this easement set up. In September, we agreed to exercise the option and a check was cut for \$10,000. The check is still in my mailbox, as when I contacted her former attorney I heard nothing from him. I will be forwarding that correspondence to all of you, but I would be more comfortable if we discussed this in a meeting with our attorney. I will use information from the above doodle poll to try to set that up. I am meeting on Friday with the manager and the engineer of the Road Commission as well as our engineer to try to get agreement on the angle of the pipe going under the road. This is a technical thing that shouldn't be this hard. I am losing faith that we would get this bond done by the end of March, which will leave our 22-23 budget in the red.

I was surprised to find out that board members had been looking into temporary strapping on the library wall. If I had been consulted, I could have shared that under MCL 339.2011, a township may not engage in a public works project costing \$15,000 or more, unless the plans and specifications for the project are prepared by a licensed architect or licensed professional engineer, the land is surveyed by a licensed professional surveyor and the work is supervised by either a licensed professional architect or engineer. This law exists so that the taxpayers can be protected and know that their money is being spent wisely. I did talk to Matt at Lake shore Marine back in 2019, my recollection is that he never got back with me but it could be that he called me back and told me that the project was more than he could do.

I know about this requirement for public works projects, because I have attended as many Michigan Township Association annual conferences as I possibly could and I heard about this in a workshop on funding capital improvements. 2023's conference is at the Grand Traverse Resort, very close to us, and I hope that our board will make the effort to attend and become better informed as to our duties and better inspired to serve our public to the best of our abilities.