

# Essex Township Echo~ Voice of the Township

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**SUMMER 2018**

## 2018-2019 Essex Township Road Projects

Each year, a large portion of our budget goes to our roads. As a community, we understand the importance of maintaining our gravel and paved roads. We also pay the road commission to spray brush, apply brine (commonly called chloride) to reduce dust, and do special projects like replacing culverts.

These are the projects we have contracted the road commission to do this year. Please look at the costs of each of these, so you know where some of your tax dollars are being applied. In August, we will be voting on a renewal of the roads millage.

Kinley Rd - Forest Hill to Wacousta, 1.04 miles, 2000 tons gravel	\$13,525.00
Hyde Rd - Lowell to McNeil, 1.52 miles, 3000 tons gravel	\$19,987.50
Grove Rd - Kinley to Colony, 1.02 miles, 1500 tons gravel	\$10,475.00
Bauer Rd - Stone to Moss, 1.01 miles, 1200 tons gravel	\$8,765.00
French Rd - Airport to McNeil, 0.5 miles, chip seal	\$13,867.00
Hyde Rd - Forest Hill to Maple, 0.64 miles, chip seal	\$14,437.00
Island Rd - culvert	\$33,191.50
Brush spray	\$4,800.00
Brine	\$35,148.50
Total:	\$154,196.50

You may have also noticed the three bridges on Colony Road were redone, and Colony Road was repaved from Forest Hill Rd to Dewitt Rd. This was not a township expense, as Colony Road is maintained and paid for by the county.

## Millage Renewal on August Ballot

On the August 7, 2018 ballot, Essex Township residents will vote on a renewal of the roads millage.

Four years ago, Essex Township voted to increase the road millage by 0.5, which supplemented the Roads and Bridges portion of our budget by \$26,300.00 per year. With the money, Essex Township has been able to do many road projects, including repairing cracks, replacing culverts, putting on gravel, sealing bridges, and maintaining our roads. The costs of maintaining roads are substantial. For instance, the average cost of one mile of chipseal is \$26,000, and the average cost of one mile of 1500 ton of gravel is \$10,500. Last year, the township completed the following road projects that totaled over \$92,000.

1500 tons of gravel on one mile of Kinley Road, between Airport and Grove -	\$13,290
Chip seal on a half mile of McNeil Rd, between French and Lowe -	\$13,881
Essex Center bridge south of Colony - Mel deck and asphalt bridge deck -	\$4220
Essex Center bridge north of Colony - Mel deck and asphalt bridge deck -	\$4220
Moss Rd culvert replacement -	\$8958
Essex Center Rd culvert replacement -	\$8958
Brush spray -	\$4230
Brine application (commonly called chloride) -	\$35,145

With the renewal of the millage, the budget will allow the township to continue repairing and maintaining our roads. Please take the time to look at the renewal and consider your choice as you drive to the election on our township roads.

**The August 2018 ballot millage renewal will read:** *Shall the expired previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Essex Township, of .5 mills (\$.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to .4970 mills (\$.497 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at up to .4970 mills (\$.497 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for four (4) years, 2018 through 2021 inclusive, for maintaining, rebuilding, repaving, repairing, and improving the rural township roads, raising an estimated \$27,700 in the first year the millage is levied?*

[ ] Yes [ ] No



## Fire Department Grant

The Maple Rapids Fire Department was recently awarded a FEMA grant for \$94,000. With a match of approximately \$10,000, the grant allowed for the purchase of 15 new Air Packs. The department was badly in need of this new equipment to keep our firefighters safe as they protect our township property!

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## Library News

The Maple Rapids Public Library holds public story hour from September – May on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. They also provide a summer reading program which began in June. You may contact the library for information at (989)682-4464. The library is part of the White Pine Library Co-op, which allows access to a wide variety of materials not kept in the Maple Rapids library. Notary and fax services are provided during regular business hours.

This summer, Briggs District Library is planning on placing a book return box at Lowe United Methodist Church Hall. In April, the library held a Lego night at the hall, and they are hoping to schedule another event in Essex Township later this year. The library is also planning to start circulating mobile hot spots, working on a new wireless printing service that will allow people to print from their personal devices, and adding items to the This N That Collection. This collection allows checkouts of items like tools, shaped cake pans, educational games, and board games.

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## Election workers needed!

We must have both Republicans and Democrats present at all times when elections are held. Election workers are paid \$10/hour + one meal on election day. Jobs may include check in, checking voter ID on the computer, assisting voters, tallying absentee ballots, and closing the polls. The county offers paid training for two training sessions at the courthouse. If you're interested or have any questions, contact the clerk.

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## DISABLED VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

According to MCL 211.7b, Real property that is used and owned as a homestead by a qualified disabled veteran (or the unremarried, surviving spouse of a qualified disabled veteran) is exempt from property taxes. The veteran, surviving spouse, or legal designee of a veteran or surviving spouse must file an affidavit each year with the supervisor or assessor between December 31 and the final adjournment of the Board of Review for each tax year. Please let our assessor, Beth Botke, know if you qualify for a disabled veteran's exemption



## ONLINE CEMETERY MAPPING

Last summer Essex Township contracted Instone Data Solutions to form a comprehensive online mapping system for our cemeteries. Previously, our township used the original hand-drawn records and maps from decades ago. Most of the records were kept in standard lined-paper notebooks. Our township clerks over the years have been diligent about keeping them safe, but there was still the obvious wear that comes with years of use, and the threat of potential loss of information due to fire, water damage, etc. With the upgrade provided by Instone, we now have a digital backup of all cemetery records, and the information is easily accessed by the public. Check it out on our website!

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## 2018 MEETING DATES:

June 20, August 15, October 17, December 19

All meetings will be held at 7 p.m.

at the Lowe United Methodist Church Hall

5485 W Lowe Rd.

We'd love to see you there!

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## SUMMER DEFERMENTS AVAILABLE

Pursuant to MCL 211.51, property taxpayers may defer until February 14, 2019 without penalty or interest, the due date of their summer taxes on their principal residence. To qualify, the gross household income for the preceding calendar year must not exceed \$40,000 one of the following:

(A) Is a totally and permanently disabled person, blind person, paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible serviceperson, eligible veteran, or eligible widow or widower.

(B) Is 62 years of age or older, including the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death.

Property that is classified or used as agricultural property may qualify if the gross receipts of the agricultural or horticultural operation in the previous year (or the average gross receipts for such operations in the previous three years) are not less than the household income of the owner for the preceding calendar year.

Persons applying for a deferral must certify that they qualify for the deferral on a form available through the treasurer's office in order to receive the deferral. The form must be completed each year, and must be filed with the treasurer no later than September 14, 2018 in order to receive the deferral for this year.

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## Thank You!

This spring there was an interruption of our water supply in the Sowle Cemetery, which turned out to be a problem with the fuse box for the well. After a call to Jandernoa Well Drilling, Tim Jandernoa fixed the problem with no charge to the township. We would like to thank Tim for being so generous with his time and talent!