

The Essex Update

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Winter 2021

Roads projects completed in 2021

In 2018, Essex Township residents voted 265-78 to renew the millage for maintaining and improving our roads, which raises an estimated \$27,700 a year. This is just a portion of how much tax money we spend on the roads, as it is one of our biggest budget items each year.

In August 2022, we will be voting on a renewal of the roads millage to continue repairing, improving, rebuilding, providing dust control, and maintaining the upkeep of the roads. We know how important it is to our township to have maintained roads. If you ever have road concerns, please contact the Clinton County Road Commission, Douglas Steffen, Managing Director, (989-668-0030), or Supervisor Carla Wartin (989-640-9284, essexsupervisor@gmail.com).

The cash share amount this year from the road commission for our township was \$35,854.04. This means if our township pays that amount toward the roads, the road commission will match it. We also signed a contract for brine (commonly called chloride) application. We paid for brine to be applied in May, June, and August.

This year, we contracted the road commission to complete these projects:	
Brine - 3 applications	\$37,422.69
Maple Ave - Hyde to Island - Gravel (prior to 1989)	\$4,386.84
Findlay Rd - Lowe to Island - Gravel (part 2020, part 2001)	\$5,324.66
Mead Rd - Forest Hill to Wacousta - Gravel (2001)	\$6,577.00
Hyde Rd - Forest Hill to Essex Center - Gravel (2003)	\$6,615.79
Wacousta Rd - Colony to Stone - Gravel (2008)	\$21,878.99

Culvert on Wacousta Rd between Colony and Stone	\$3,018.48
Brush spray	\$2,214.00
Gravel for spot work	\$3,241.16

Attitude of Gratitude

Kudos to our township residents! Historically, approximately 93-95% of all Essex Township property tax bills are paid in full by February 28th. In 2020, our payment rate climbed to 97%! With so many residents paying on time, we can count on the revenue to do road projects, pay for fire and rescue services, help fund local libraries, and provide cemetery upkeep that our township deserves. We are proud to have such reliable citizens in our township.

ARPA Funds

Our township has received almost \$66,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act. As of this writing, the funds have not been allocated to any particular project. Look for updates in the Summer newsletter.

Cemetery News

This summer it was discovered that the door on the mausoleum at Sewie Cemetery was not closing properly. The township board would like to thank Jack Anderson and Tom Salisbury, Essex Township residents and all-around good guys, for their assistance. Jack replaced the latch, while Tom helped with the heavy lifting. We would also like to recognize Ida Bonaroff for her unwavering commitment to keeping the mausoleum clean, even when it involved a wayward squirrel.

In other cemetery business, there is a new policy for accessing the mausoleum. If you need to have access, please call Bonnie Hale at (989) 292-1700 to set up an appointment. Also, please remember to remove any summer flowers, urns and pots from your loved one's graves by November 1st. The cemetery caretaker has the right to remove any displays, containers and growth that become unsightly or impede the maintenance and care of the cemetery.

Election Update

Thankfully, 2021 has been a quieter year on the election front. We consolidated precincts with Fulton Township for the November 2, 2021 election. This was a cost-saving measure for both townships, and allowed all residents of the Fulton district to vote in one place. Depending on future ballot items, Essex Township may pursue this option again at some point.

Looking ahead to the election cycle for 2022, the clerk, Lori Conner, is once again looking for new election workers. This is an important paid position, and there is a need to have both registered Democrats and Republicans on staff. Paid training is provided at the Clinton County Courthouse. Please contact the clerk if you think you may be interested in more information. Her number is (989) 224-3484. All previous workers are also encouraged to contact Lori as soon as possible to let her know if you intend to work next year.

MRFD New Firefighters

The Maple Rapids Fire Department is happy to welcome four new firefighters and two new firefighter trainees. The new firefighters are Preston Miller, Joe Martin, Jeremy McAllister and Jim Hunnicutt. The training firefighters are Cotton Martin and Jon Welch. Welcome to the MRFD and thank you for your service to our township!

Upcoming Township Meetings

December 16, 2021 • February 16, 2022 • March 16, 2022

Unless otherwise noted on our website, all meetings are held at 7:00 PM at the Lowe United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 5485 W. Lowe Rd. Everyone is welcome to join us!