

Q&A with Township Supervisor Bailey about Roads and Other Items.

At 3-9-2020 Officer Office Hours at Township Hall

Q - Residents are reporting (on Nextdoor) cutting of large trees along Gunn and Snell by RCOC. Why is this happening?

A - Supervisor Bailey said this is to clear the way for cleaning out the existing ditches in the ROW to allow water to properly drain off the road. He will be discussing this at the upcoming state of the Township address.

He added this -

For roads that have never had proper ditches, and therefore, cannot be maintained, we are exploring whether the RCOC GRIP process can be used to generate proper ditches. GRIP stands for Gravel Road Improvement Plan. We want to run a pilot program on a section of Gunn Road east of Rochester Rd that has never had proper ditching. The RCOC has agreed to determine the cost for the new ditching and then we will negotiate the Township's portion of the cost. A resident who lives on this section of the road has tentatively agreed gather signatures of at least 51% of the residents along this road segment to fund a SAD, Special Assessment District that will fund the Township's cost. The Township would cover 10% of this cost.

Background information:

RCOC pays for

- Grading each gravel road 6 times each year, and apply dust control product after each grading.
- Maintenance of existing ditches, including needed tree removal.
- 1/3 of the "Tri-party" funds (Township, County, and RCOC). Tri-Party funds have been used to purchase gravel each year.

The Township pays for

- dust control chemicals (about \$75,000 annually)
- Gravel (RCOC recommends new gravel every 5 years for every gravel road or about \$200,000 per year plus our 1/3 of Tri-party cost.) We have been spending about \$100,000 plus our portion of Tri-Party.

This plan came from a discussion with Dave Lewis, RCOC Superintendent for our area. Bailey asked him "What do we have to do to have the RCOC best maintain our gravel roads.

Q - Do you support the idea of any or all of the Board officers being full-time positions?

A - Supervisor Bailey – "No. Our Township Manager, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Clerk manage the day to day activities. The Board is responsible for setting Township policy that best serves our residents.

Q - Do you support changing our status to village or city for the purpose of having more control over our roads?

A - Supervisor Bailey – “No, it creates many expectations for many many more services, like a DPW, and other services which then drive much higher taxes.