

Dickinson County Road Commission Millage

CEW Presentation
2023

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OUTLINE

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Reason for Considering a Millage

- Beginning in 2009, the Road Commission found itself in a poor financial state due to an unanticipated major funding shortfall on a Primary Road project.
- Layoffs occurred in 2010 and 2011, so an additional funding source was needed to get the Road Commission in a financially stable position.

Coordination with the County Board and Cities for a Ballot Proposal

- Upon approval by the Road Commission Board, discussions were had with the County Board and Cities.
- Per MCL 224.20b, the County Board of Commissioners are authorized to submit to the electorate a tax levy on the ballot and the Cities are entitled to their portions of the Millage revenues
- Initially the Cities were not interested in cost-sharing to place the proposal on the ballot, but later the proposal was placed on a ballot with no cost to the Cities

Millage Language for the Ballot

- Proposed language-
 "Shall the voters of Dickinson County be assessed 0.5 mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000.00 of Taxable Value) over and above the rate of taxation now in effect, be levied for a period of (5) years from 2012 to 2016 inclusive, for the purpose of operations, maintenance, and improvements to the public roads of Dickinson County and the city streets in the cities of Iron Mountain, Kingsford, and Norway within Dickinson County, and for no other purpose. The estimated amount of revenue that will be collected if approved and levied in the first calendar year is approximately \$465,000.00. These funds will be distributed among the Road Commission and Cities."

> YES / NO

Campaign Procedure/Limitations

- Campaigning was limited to word-of-mouth discussions and meetings after hours at the request of interested organizations since the Road Commission could not legally expend any funds toward the millage promotion per recommendation of the County Clerk
- It was allowable for a fund to be set up at the Courthouse for donations toward campaign expenses.

Millage Proceeds 2012-2022

	DCRC	Iron Mountain	Kingsford	Norway
2012	\$203,703.83	\$108,333.70	\$62,089.87	\$28,440.28
2013	\$209,518.77	\$110,710.46	\$62,716.93	\$29,124.31
2014	\$212,750.01	\$111,339.01	\$62,712.74	\$28,951.36
2015	\$216,680.72	\$114,598.73	\$62,579.52	\$28,283.30
2016	\$207,245.96	\$113,732.72	\$61,256.80	\$27,237.42
2017	\$208,532.91	\$114,474.13	\$63,236.66	\$27,071.32
2018	\$234,090.87	\$115,821.17	\$62,555.74	\$27,649.12
2019	\$236,461.23	\$115,242.66	\$63,058.74	\$27,892.36
2020	\$238,485.85	\$120,268.28	\$63,579.58	\$25,128.26
2021	\$243,489.92	\$122,227.84	\$65,584.40	\$29,030.06
2022	\$248,733.72	\$127,155.96	\$67,427.80	\$24,120.22
Total:	\$2,459,693.79	\$1,273,904.66	\$696,798.78	\$302,928.01

Millage Assessment/Levied

- Shall the voters of Dickinson County be assessed 0.5 mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000.00 of Taxable Value)...
- 0.5 mills = \$0.50 per \$1,000 taxable value
 - ✓ \$50,000 Assessment = \$25,000 Tax value -> \$12.50 levied
 - ✓ \$100,000 Assessment = \$50,000 Tax value -> \$25 levied

Allocation of Millage Funds

- Through 2022 the Millage Funds were utilized primarily for operations as we were able to bring the Road Commission back to financial stability over this time. Beginning in 2022, per Local Road Policy, the Road Commission will dedicate a portion of the funds toward Road Commission match of Local Road projects with the Townships.
- Keeping the millage language in a format as presented allows for allocating the funds annually as needed depending on circumstances that may arise and Road Commission priorities

Renewal Results and Recommendation to Continue Millage as a Renewal

- Following are the initial millage results and renewal results:
 - February 2012: Yes: 53.64%, No: 46.36%
 - March 2016: Yes: 57.72%, No: 42.28%
 - March 2020: Yes: 65.63%, No: 34.37%
- Based on discussion with our County Clerk, a renewal has a better chance of passing. Don't change the millage language, as it is no longer considered a renewal. Consider an additional millage instead.

Questions?

