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**Special Edition**

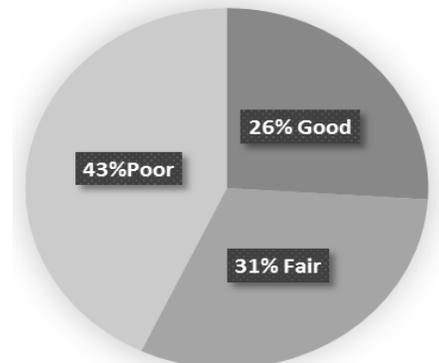
**To the Voters of Kalamazoo Township:**

On Tuesday, February 24, 2015 the Charter Township of Kalamazoo will be holding a special election to ask voters to approve a road bond proposal. The Township Board has worked with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) to develop a plan where the majority of major improvements would be done in the first three years of the bond issue, beginning in the spring of 2015. The Board of Trustees approved, by resolution at their November 24, 2014, meeting, to seek voter approval for a \$9.75 million bond sale to be paid back over a 10 year period. (A copy of the resolution and all other documents referenced are available on the Township's website, [www.ktwp.org](http://www.ktwp.org))

**How bad are the local roads in Kalamazoo Township?**

26% of the local roads are good, PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation & Rating System) 8 – 10, needing only routine crack fill and minor patching. 31% are rated fair PASER 5 - 7, needing preventative chip seal, HMA Wedging or concrete joint repair. 43% are rated poor, PASER 1 - 4, needing rehab/reconstruction which could include resurface, pulverize/HMA paving, reconstruct.

**Local Roads**



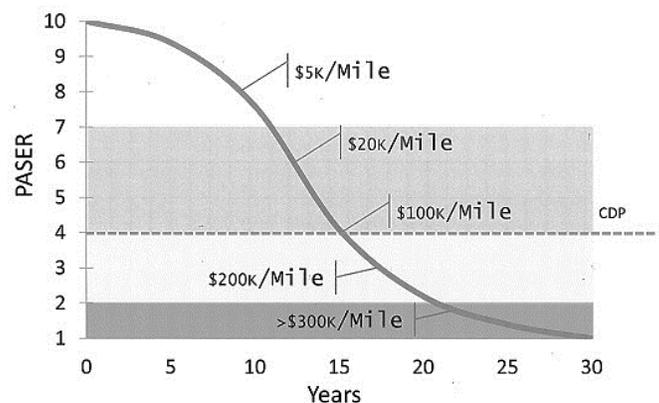
**Isn't the State raising money to fix roads?**

The State's proposal is to eliminate the gas tax and increase the sales tax. The May election is for County Primary and MDOT roads, not for township local roads. The bond money (if approved in the February election) will all be used for local Township roadways in Kalamazoo Township.

**Why do we need to change our local road funding?**

Kalamazoo Township has been spending around \$300,000 a year from our general fund on road repairs and maintenance. Revenue that could be put towards road repair has not been increasing at the rate that the roads have been deteriorating. As a road deteriorates the cost to bring it up to good condition increases. Therefore the township has developed a substantial backlog of roads needing repair at a cost that is increasing for every year that the road is neglected. The KCRC determined that maintaining the same level of investment for the next 10 years would lead to a decline in condition of the roads from the current overall average PASER rating of 5.22 to an overall PASER average of 3.65 in 10 years (2025).

**Cost of Treatments Increases With Time**



### **How long will it take and how much will it cost?**

The plan formulated with the KCRC would schedule repairs over the next three years, and bring our local roads from a PASER average of 5.22 to 6.95. The actual estimate of cost is \$10.1 million, with general fund money making up the difference between that and the \$9.75 million raised by the bond sale. From that point on the Township would focus on keeping the roads maintained to minimize the need for expensive major road repairs.

### **How do the bonds work and how much will it cost me?**

It has been estimated that Township property owners would pay an additional 1.3 mills or \$1.30 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value starting with the winter 2015 taxes. The firm counseling the Township on the bond sale and repayment projects a 2.51 mill levy over the remaining nine years would be sufficient to pay the debt. The average taxable value of residential properties in Kalamazoo Township is \$40,000 so with a 2.5 mill levy the average annual cost for homeowners would be \$100 per year.

### **Will all the money go for roads?**

Roads are the most expensive portion of the Township's transportation infrastructure and will consume most of the money available, but not all residents in the Township are able to or choose to use cars for all their transportation needs. Therefore a master plan for non-motorized/active transportation plan has been approved by the Township Board. We will realize savings by implementing the most critical parts of this plan at the same time adjacent roads are being worked on.

### **What makes the Township think people will support the bond proposal?**

A fall 2013 survey of township residents ranked road repair and maintenance as their greatest area of dissatisfaction in the Township. In addition, a majority of survey respondents expressed a willingness to pay additional money help repair and maintain roads.



### **Do I vote at my regular polling location?**

Yes, all of the regular polling places will be open. You will not have to go to a different location for this election.

### **Is there a real person I can talk to about this or a place to get more information?**

You may call (269) 381-8080 or email Supervisor Ronald Reid [supervisor@ktpw.org](mailto:supervisor@ktpw.org) or Treasurer George Cochran [treasurer@ktpw.org](mailto:treasurer@ktpw.org). There is also a large amount of information available on the homepage and on the transportation and roads page of the Kalamazoo Township website [www.ktpw.org](http://www.ktpw.org).

### **The ballot language will be as follows:**

Shall the Charter Township of Kalamazoo, County of Kalamazoo, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Nine Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$9,750,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, payable in not to exceed eleven (11) years from the date of issue of each series, for the purpose of paying the cost of acquiring constructing, furnishing and equipping road improvements in the township, including necessary rights-of-way, sidewalks, proper drainage facilities and appurtenances and attachments thereto?

YES

NO

If approved, the estimated millage to be levied in 2015 is 1.30 mills (\$1.30 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 2.51 mills (\$2.51 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

## **Other News from the Township**

### **Recycling Changes**

If you check the rules on our website you'll see a couple of changes have been made to the recycling program. Unfortunately the facility that sorts our recycling is not able to take plastic bags. Most stores have a place to return them though. The only exception is if you shred paper, they would like you to put it in a clear plastic bag. These can be found at office or janitorial supply stores. Be sure to put your cart out the night before pick-up. Find more information at [www.ktpw.org](http://www.ktpw.org) or call the Township. Recycling really does make a difference. Keep up the good work.

## Please help keep sidewalks and fire hydrants clear this winter

Shoveling sidewalks can be hard work but please think what it would be like to have your granddaughter walking to school in the morning before day break on the road or to be walking home from the grocery store and slip and fall and have all your groceries roll into the road or what it's like to try to get somewhere in a wheelchair and get stuck in snow. These are all true stories from last winter. If you're able to help a neighbor please do. If you belong to an organization looking for a service project or are a student that needs to do community service contact the Township and we can put you in touch with people that need your help. If we all work together we can keep the sidewalks clear. You can see a program about one of last winter's snow heroes at <http://www.publicmedianet.org/blog/connect-february-2014/>

## Recognition and Thanks

### A Really Good Neighbor

This issue's thank you goes out to Floyd Compton from the Westwood Neighborhood. For the past 30 years Mr. Compton has been clearing the sidewalks for eight to 12 neighbors who were unable to get out and do it themselves. He's also pitched in with mowing their lawns. Mr. Compton is experiencing poor health himself now and is getting help with his sidewalks and lawn from another good neighbor, Clifford Bentley. It's folks like these that make your community a good place to live. If you know someone who deserves recognition for their contribution to the community contact your newsletter editor and let us know.

## Communications from the Office

### What's on the Website?

Information on roadway improvements, Master Plans for Land Use, Parks and Recreation and Non-motorized Transport. You'll find budgets, recycling and waste pick-up, zoning, ordinances, meeting minutes and links to other interesting sites.

### Subscribe to the Newsletter

This is a special edition. The newsletter is normally sent via email four times a year. To subscribe go to [www.ktwp.org](http://www.ktwp.org) or send 4 self-addressed stamped envelopes to Kalamazoo Township.

### Red Med Box

Properly disposing of unused and unwanted medications helps to protect the environment. It also helps to protect our community against prescription abuse, addiction and accidental or intentional overdose. Red Med Box is an easy and secure way to dispose of your unused or expired medication. There is a Red Med Box located in the entryway to the Police Department on the Mt Olivet side of the Kalamazoo Township Hall. It is available for you to drop off your expired and unused medications from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



## Meeting Dates and Times

**Board of Trustees** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of every month at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted).

### Note new Channels.

Board meetings are on Charter Communications channel 190 and AT&T U-verse 99: Sun. 8 p.m., Mon. 8 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., Wed. 9 a.m. and Fri. 3:45 p.m. Meetings may also be viewed online at <http://pmn.pegcentral.com/> (Also check out Kalamazoo Township Roundtable on Channel 190: Mondays at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday at 7:00 a.m., Thursdays at Midnight and Saturdays at 9:30 p.m. as well as Connect at 7:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m., and 12:30 a.m. each day of the week, to understand what's happening in your community.)

**Planning Commission** – first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** – third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Unsafe Building Hearing** – every other month, beginning in February on the third Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

All meetings are at the Township Administrative Offices located at 1720 Riverview Drive. Check the website for any schedule changes.

### Upcoming Township Office Closures

Martin Luther King Day, Monday January 19, 2015

Presidents Day Observed, Monday February 16, 2015

# Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department



Have you ever considered serving your community in a rewarding and exciting way?

The Township of Kalamazoo Fire Department maintains approximately 65 part-time, paid on-call firefighters that are made up of area residents that respond to emergency situations as needed. Paid on-call fire fighters work under the general supervision of the officers of the department and perform the duties of emergency fire and medical response operations for the residents of Kalamazoo Township and surrounding communities.

This position requires a moderate time commitment associated with training and emergency responses. All required training is provided by the Township of Kalamazoo.

## General Employment Qualifications

**Education:** -High School diploma or equivalent.

**Experience:** -This is an entry level position.

## **Necessary Special Requirements:**

- Valid State of Michigan Vehicle Operator License.
- Certification of State of Michigan Medical First Responder level.
- Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council (MFFTC) - Fire Fighter I/II.
- MFFTC – Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations.
- Current CPR certification. (Healthcare provider or equivalent)
- Reliable transportation.

If you have any questions regarding the position, please contact the fire chief at (269) 381-8080 or at [firechief@ktwp.org](mailto:firechief@ktwp.org). If you are interested, you can get an employment application on the Township website at [www.kalamazootownship.org](http://www.kalamazootownship.org). Applications are accepted throughout the year and the hiring process is done on an as needed basis.

2015 RECYCLING, LEAF & BRUSH, & BULK TRASH PICK UP SCHEDULE																												
JAN 2015							FEB 2015							MAR 2015							APR 2015							
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MAY 2015							JUNE 2015							JULY 2015							AUG 2015							
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					27	28	29	30	31				
<b>RECYCLING PICK UP</b> LEAF & BRUSH PICK UP - May 4-8 and November 16 - 20 BULK TRASH PICK UP - First full week of April, July and October HOLIDAY - PICK UP IS A DAY LATER DUE TO HOLIDAY																												
<b>Know the rules and your pick-up day. Visit the Township website</b> <a href="http://www.ktwp.org">www.ktwp.org</a>																												