

# **Dexter Township**

## **“in the loop”**

### **February 2022**

Thank you for enrolling to receive Dexter Township updates - it is our goal to keep resident informed as to what is occurring in the township. We will keep these updates in a short format and will include one or a couple topics per email. Should you have any additional questions or wish to become involved please simply drop a line back to this email address or one or all of your elected officials.

#### [FY 2023 Budget Process](#)

The approved strategic plan informs priorities for the Township’s fund balances, its three-year operating budget, and its American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. Proposed budget items were ranked using a matrix that cross-references strategic planning goals and action steps, with items that accomplish multiple goals ranking as higher priorities.

Tax dollars are meant to be used for public benefit. The Board of Trustees approved a fund balance policy sufficient to ensure appropriate cash flow and rainy day/emergency funds, bringing Dexter Township into compliance with GASB. Fund balances not designated for another purpose are proposed to be expended for the benefit of the community, with the largest share proposed to support local road repair. Other items proposed for support include Dexter Township clean-up days, improved livestream technology, open space, and more. ARPA funds are proposed to support broadband, open space, and Multi Lakes Sewer District infrastructure.

The BOT has conducted three public work sessions to discuss the proposed multi-year budget and FY23 appropriation. The final public budget workshop will be held on March 8th (6pm) and the budget will be approved at a March Board of Trustees meeting (March 15th, 6pm). We invite you to attend and gain a fuller understanding of how your tax dollars are being utilized. You are able to find proposed budgets on the Dexter Township website, in the Board Packet for the February 15 meeting, should you wish to review.

#### [Local Collector Road Repair Schedule](#)

The Board of Trustees approved the priority order of local collector road repair at its January 2022 meeting. The prioritization was based on three criteria: (1) accident rates; (2) daily traffic counts; and (3) recency of significant repair as a proxy for road condition. These criteria were established based on public feedback from a spring 2021 BOT meeting considering local road repair. We compared our prioritized list with the Washtenaw County Road Commission’s; our prioritization was almost the same. The prioritized list will drive the repair schedule, with the number of projects per year a factor of the total approved budget. The supervisor’s proposed budget includes an aggressive five-year repair schedule, subject to BOT approval.

Karen Sikkenga, as the lead trustee on local road repairs. will request an agenda item for March 2022 to establish a Local Roads Committee. If approved, she will be recruiting qualified volunteers to serve on the committee and subcommittees and will be asking the Planning Commission to consider serving and to get the word out. Please consider volunteering to assist with this or other committees.

### [Northwest Passage Trail](#)

The Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI), a nonprofit dedicated to trail development in Washtenaw County selected Beckett & Raeder to develop a preliminary trail alignment for the length of the Northwest Passage trail connecting Hudson Mills to Stinchfield Woods near Stinchfield Road. This contract is funded 1/3 by Dexter Township, 1/3 by HWPI, and 1/3 by Washtenaw County Parks (WCPARC), at a cost of <\$6K per entity. Beckett & Raeder was selected based on a competitive bid. The project is proceeding; a preliminary walk-through with Beckett & Raeder, its subcontracted surveyor, the three funders took place on 2/15/2022. The Board of Trustees had previously approved up to \$15K for this purpose. The preliminary trail alignment will be used as a tool to begin project implementation, including fundraising/grant acquisition and land control. Materials for the trail (bituminous vs. gravel) and North T. crossing/location are TBD based on budget and policy decisions, with WCPARC and the MetroParks as the major stakeholders with decision-making authority.

HWPI separately contracted with Stantec to provide preliminary trail alignment for the section of trail connecting to the entrance of Stinchfield Woods on Stinchfield Road, and construction of a parking lot. This section of trail will be gravel.

Stay tune, additional information on township activities will be up coming. However, if you have any questions please simply text back to this email address or reach out any or all of the elected officials.

We hope you can attend future township meetings and we welcome your questions and hearing from you.