

Road millage proposal is too expensive

I am a Bedford Township resident who has been following the township's proposed 10-year road millage, and I have some serious concerns that I would like to bring to people's attention. I attended a meeting recently and this is what I learned.

The township wants to buy a new truck to plow snow and fix potholes at a cost of \$150,000. Only main roads, not subdivision roads, will be repaired. We were told that those are the subdivision residents' problem. So why exactly do we pay a tax for road repairs in the first place when only some of the roads are covered?

The main roads are not going to be paved; they are going to be chipped and sealed. This usually will last only three to five years. What happens after the five years? Seems to me, if the roads were repaired correctly the first time, we could prevent a lot of headaches. Why would I want to pay another tax for the road commission to fix my roads when I already pay a tax for this as a Monroe County resident? They can't seem to do a good job on road repairs now; why would I want to be charged double for inadequate service?

Times are tough. We are all feeling the effects of the economy. Most of us have taken pay cuts, lost benefits, have been laid off or lost jobs

Letters welcome

Full name, address and telephone number are required. Letters are limited to 400 words and may be edited. Send letters to info@bedfordnow.com; Olde Schoolhouse Commons, 8336 Monroe Rd., Room 119, Lambertville, MI 48144, or fax: (734) 850-2023.

completely. Bedford Township doesn't seem to understand our struggles. They keep asking for millages for roads, schools, parks. It's not that we don't want to improve our community. Most of us just can't afford to do this. I was offended when one township official asked me at the meeting if I was in favor of the road millage. When I responded that I wasn't, he said to me, "If you can't afford a \$50-a-year increase on your taxes, then you shouldn't be a homeowner."

Here is an idea. Why don't officials take a decrease in their salaries or pay a higher premium for their health care? Let's level the playing field, then see if they all would be in favor of raising taxes.

Residents should beware of this road millage. Ten years is a long commitment for higher taxes. They should be informed, come to the meetings, ask questions, get the truth, then make an informed decision for themselves.

Rennie Latford, Temperance