

"TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IN OLIGARCHAL BEDFORD TOWNSHIP IS ALIVE AND WELL" The Bedford Township Board announced at their September 9, 2014 meeting to a packed crowd that they want to assess every property owner in the township for road repairs on roads which are the fiscal responsibility of the Monroe County Road Commission. Never mind that they already tried to put this proposal on a previous ballot and lost the vote. Never mind that Bedford Township has reserves of about \$4 million dollars in their coffers right now. Never mind that the Monroe County Road Commission has \$2 million in reserves in their coffers. Never mind that proposed legislation is before the state legislatures for road repairs as we speak. Never mind that there is grant money and federal funds available for road repairs.

These township trustees have decided to make the property owners in the Bedford Township pay an assessment of either a flat rate of \$75 per parcel for 5 years or a 1 mill tax increase on their properties to pay for road repairs that will not even cover the subdivision roads where their properties are located. The assessment will be quickly put on this years winter tax bill. Bedford Township says the projected costs for proposed road maintenance and improvement projects is about \$925,000 per year for five years. I want to know why strapped property owners should pay this bill when Bedford Township already has 4 years of this money in their possession right now! The Monroe County Road Commission has 2 years of this money in their bank accounts right now. What makes this action doubly insulting is that Bedford Township property owners are being asked to pay for repairs on public roads that don't even front their properties since subdivision roads are not covered in this SAD plan.

Since the responsible governmental agencies who are supposed to do the road repairs ALREADY HAVE THE MONEY TO DO THESE PROJECTS WHY AREN'T THEY USING IT? I say the Bedford Township Board's attempt to forcibly place a tax assessment on every parcel in their perview is tantamount to, "TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION" and they must be stopped. It is unfair to expect the already strapped citizenry of Bedford Township to pay for public roads out of their own pockets just because Greg Stewart and other Bedford Township Board members find it too hard to make the Monroe County Road Commission do its job! In Michigan, drivers already pay a .19 cents per gallon gas tax and registration fees which are earmarked to pay for road maintenance and construction. Drivers also pay a 6% sales tax at the pumps. I think it is safe to say that we, the citizens of Bedford Township are already paying and paying and paying for road repairs and they don't even fix the roads in our subdivisions.

Bedford Township... GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND GET YOUR MONEY SOMEWHERE ELSE! Forcibly assessing citizens in your township that have the misfortune of owning parcels in your township is illegal and highly amoral. We do not yet live in an oligarchy. Democracy still rules in this country. Just because the voters turned you down for road repairs does not mean you can just try to quietly assess them after the fact to get your way in the end. What will stop you from doing more assessments in the future if you get this one? I suggest you do the right thing and kill this assessment idea right now if you want to ever stand a chance of being elected to public office in the future.

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