

Money should go to improvements to roads, not maintenance

Regarding your Bedford roads editorial:

1. \$50 or 50 cents — Voters should never pass a 10-year millage that is "open ended" (supervisor's words). There is no contract with the Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC) on how this money will be used, so all we have to go on are some words from politicians stating what they would like to do — and those politicians most likely will not be around 10 years to carry out their "ideas."

Additionally, it is not a matter of "only \$50 over a year's time." We should be good stewards of every penny we spend and throwing \$50 away is not being a good steward.

2. Yes, the roads are "atrocious," so let's fix the roads, not snowplow, fill potholes (everyone knows that is not a real "fix"), etc. Check into how much the MCRC spent in snow removal and overtime in the last few years?

Voters should not be asked to "maintain" the roads. We should see a product at the end of the fiscal year. Buying equipment (that depreciates), paying for upkeep, and paying employee wages and benefits are responsibilities of the contractor that the taxpayers are hiring — the MCRC.

3. Check the Bedford 2010-11 year-end balance sheet. Only 50 percent of the money appropriated for roads was actually spent.

It is puzzling with the condition of the roads that the board wouldn't find some project that needed improvement. They had the money.

4. The road committee says they can "pick" their MCRC employees. I believe the MCRC laborers have a binding union contract in which they bid on jobs. Has anyone consulted the union to see if they are in agreement to waive the bidding process? I think that is something the public should know. I hope we are not "buying a pig in a poke."

5. Finally, 10 years ... really?

If my elementary school grandchildren buy property when they grow up, they will be saddled with this millage. That is suspicious to me. Why not go for four to five years and see how it works? If it is all good, will we be jumping to renew it? Do you trust the voter?

If this millage were strictly for road improvement I would be the biggest cheerleader — but not for maintenance.

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