

THE TAX ATTACK

Chapter X

It's summer in our part of the world so perhaps a baseball analogy will help make an important point.

As we all know, in baseball its three strikes and you're OUT. But in Village tax legislation, I believe we will be OUT after two strikes. So you may ask what does that mean and what does it have to do with me? The answer is simple.

On August 5th we will hold a special election in the Village. The only issue on the ballot will be the 1.9 mills Roads and Culverts Levy proposed by Village council. If approved by a majority of the registered voters who actually vote that day or by absentee ballot, you'll begin paying this new 5-year tax in January, 2009. It will amount to \$58.19 for every \$100,000 appraised market value of your village real property.

From my perspective there are three realities we must all acknowledge:

- First, the aging roads and culverts within our village are in need of significant work in excess of the \$200,000 of minor maintenance budgeted annually. Before the failed 2.9 mills levy vote in March 2008 it was estimated that the actual repair and replacement needs for the next five years, beyond the regular budget, will approximate \$3.9 million.
- Second, while the passage of the levy will fund the work on a majority of those most pressing needs over the next five years, it provides nothing for the as yet unknown ones which historically have occurred from time to time.
- Finally, the defeat of the levy will force Council, which is mandated by Ohio law to maintain a balanced budget, to curtail other services in order to maintain our roads and culverts in a way that addresses public safety. It could result in closure of some non essential roads and discontinuation of services currently funded by the Village such as garbage collection.

Only our registered voters can decide which option is preferable but you owe it to yourself and your community to express your opinion. The facing page is a request for an absentee ballot. Please either use it now or vote on August 5th. You have no standing to complain about the results and their impact if you don't vote.

Bob Reitman
Village Tax Administrator