

# Town of Casey Tax Levy Referendum

The Spring election will be held on **Tuesday April 1, 2025** and among the ballots will be a request proposed by the Casey Town Board to **vote YES** on the referendum proposing an increase to the Town of Casey tax levy by 25%. This marks the first time in the past twenty years the Casey Town Board has requested a levy increase over the state mandated limit of up to 2% based on new construction in the Town of Casey. If passed, this will result in an increase of real estate taxes for 2025, payable in 2026 and forward by approximately \$70 per \$250,000 of the assessed value of your property in the Town of Casey. In 2024 property assessed at \$250,000 pays approximately \$275 of their tax bill to the Town of Casey. This would increase to approximately \$345 in 2025 payable in 2026 and remain near that amount in subsequent years due to the state mandated limits.

If passed, this will allow the Town of Casey tax levy to increase from \$254,447 by \$63, 611.75 to an annual levy of \$318,058.75 with the increase dedicated in its entirety to road maintenance, specifically for chip sealing our reengineered town roads. To put this into perspective, the current tax levies in our dominated by lakeshore& forest, neighboring municipalities are over \$310,000 for the Town of Chicog and over \$390,000 for the Town of Scott.

As supported by State of Wisconsin studies, this chip sealing process (crack routing and filling followed by chip sealing and fogging the asphalt mat) extends the lifetime of an asphalt mat by a minimum of 25% on heavily traveled roads with the lifetime extended even further for lesser traveled roads. The alternative to not chip sealing our reengineered roads is accelerated deterioration eventually demanding a replacing of the asphalt mat at a cost five times greater than the chip sealing process. Per our Washburn County Highway Commissioner and our representative for Monarch Paving estimate 2025 chip sealing costs are approximately \$35,000 per mile opposed to approximately \$175,000 to replacing one mile of asphalt mat.

The Town of Casey currently has approximately 29 miles of reengineered roads with the intent of reengineering 12 more miles in the upcoming years. The remainder is approximately 12 miles of sand & gravel roads, located in the northern portions of the town bordered mainly by Washburn County forest lands which the Town will continue to maintain by our current process of grading coupled with incremental graveling. Our road budget for 2025 is \$339,346 compared to actual costs for roads in 2024 of \$387,233. Therefore, without an increase in the town levy, we will be forced to examine our current practices of road reengineering and maintenance resulting in a reductions in these road services.

The costs for reengineering a mile of road have increased dramatically over the past twenty years, and therefore the amount of reengineering has decreased by 75% in that span. The town is dedicated to continue reengineering with portions of Pair O Lakes and Little Bass Lake Road to be addressed after the completion of Fischer and Sunfish Lake Roads. Reengineering is an essential part of a package including road patching, snowplowing, grading and mowing in retaining a private contractor to complete these essential services in an efficient, low cost manner. Therefore, abandoning reengineering in lieu of chip sealing would result in losing our private contractor requiring to town to address alternatives in completing these essential services.

In conclusion, the levy increase would allow the Town of Casey to accelerate chip sealing of our reengineered roads without a decrease in essential services giving the taxpayers of our town good and improving roads for years to come. We again ask you to **vote YES** on the town levy referendum.

The Casey Town Board

