

Emergency Services Ballot Proposal for August 4, 2015 Election

In the last newsletter, we discussed the upcoming millage proposal for emergency services in Dafter Township. With the increasing cost of providing emergency services in Dafter Township, the Dafter Township Board has voted to propose a millage for a period of six years to help cover these costs. Below you will find some answers to frequently asked questions regarding the millage proposal. A sample of the ballot language is provided on the back of this brochure. Please feel free to contact any of the Township officials if you have further questions.



Q: Why is Dafter Township proposing a millage?

A: Dafter Township is proposing this millage to raise the necessary funds to continue to provide emergency services within the Township. The funds from the millage would be dedicated to pay for Emergency Services, including the contract to provide ambulance service, operating costs for the fire department and maintenance and upgrades of aging fire equipment. The cost to the Township of supplying Emergency Medical Services (ie: Ambulance) has increased substantially over the past few years. The ambulance contract cost for fiscal year 2015-16 is currently \$45,000 annually, and the fire department operating costs are approximately \$40,000 annually not considering any equipment upgrades or purchases. Some of the fire department equipment is very old and in need of replacement. Without this millage, the Township will likely deplete all reserves in less than two years and may not have the resources to continue to provide all services.

Q: Why does the Township need to pay for ambulance service, shouldn't my medical insurance cover that?

A: Although you may have medical insurance that covers ambulance services, it does not guarantee that an ambulance will come to pick you up. The contract that Dafter Township has with Kinross EMS pays for having an ambulance on call if needed and guarantees that an ambulance will be dispatched when you call. Without this contract, ambulances are not required to respond to calls in the Township. The contract does not pay for your transport and medical treatment, it pays for the guarantee to get these services if needed. The medical services and treatment provided once the ambulance arrives is where your medical insurance provides coverage and will be billed.

Q: Wouldn't it be less expensive for Dafter Township provide their own ambulance service rather than contracting with Kinross EMS?

A: The cost to run an ambulance service and have emergency medical personnel available 24/7 would be far more cost prohibitive than the agreement with Kinross EMS. Kinross EMS has a full-time staff ready and available when called, and multiple ambulances available. In order to provide this level of service, Dafter Township would need far more resources than 2 mills would provide. The Township Board has discussed multiple options and the contract with Kinross EMS is currently the most cost effective way to continue to provide taxpayers with the ambulance service.

Q. My tax bill already shows that I pay for emergency services, what does the Township do with this money?

A: The taxes you currently pay for emergency services are not only for the Township, but for other levels of government. Most of these funds are for other agencies and the Township only receives approximately \$10,000 of these funds towards providing services within our Township. As you can see, this is not nearly sufficient to cover the costs of providing emergency services.

Q. If I decide to vote for this millage, how much will my taxes increase?

A: The Township is proposing 2 mills, which means that your taxes will increase by \$2 for every \$1,000 of taxable value. For instance, if your tax bill indicated that the taxable value of your property is \$30,000, then you would divide by \$1,000 resulting in 30, then multiply the 30 x \$2. Your taxes would increase by \$60 per year and would be assessed on your winter tax bill. You can find the taxable value of your property on your tax bill, or you can review it online at the Chippewa County Equalization parcel search website at:

<http://mi-chippewa-equalization.governmax.com/collectmax/collect30.asp>

Q: If emergency services are so expensive, how do other Townships afford them?

A: Dafter Township is one of very few remaining townships that does not currently have a millage to pay for these services. Some townships have even a higher millage than what Dafter is proposing. The Township has exhausted all other options and is now asking for taxpayer support to continue to provide these very important emergency services.

Q: Who do I contact if I have further questions about the millage proposal?

A: You can contact any of the Township Official to ask questions or receive additional information. The contact information for all Township Officials is on the back of this brochure.

EXAMPLE BALLOT PROPOSAL FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES MILLAGE

***THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL BALLOT, PLEASE VOTE AT THE
DAFTER TOWNSHIP HALL ON AUGUST 4, 2015 FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.***

EMERGENCY SERVICES MILLAGE REQUEST

AUGUST 4, 2015

(This proposal, if approved by the voters, permits Dafter Township to levy 2 mills to provide capital and operational money for emergency services within the Township for 6 years beginning in 2015)

Shall the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Dafter Township, Chippewa County, Michigan be increased by 2 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of six years, being 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, inclusive, for the purpose of providing capital and operational money for Emergency Services within the Township, thereby raising an estimated \$77,500 in the first year this millage is levied?

YES

NO

***Dafter
Township***

4171 W. 10 Mile Road
Dafter, MI 49724

Supervisor - Bob Brown
Clerk - Jodi Hunter
Treasurer - Kareen Brown
Trustee - Joyce Engelhardt
Trustee - Bob St. Peter
Assessor - Luanne Kooiman
Fire Chief - Henry Lowes
Maintenance - Dan Fox

Township Contacts

906-630-5363 dafterzoning@yahoo.com
906-440-1154 daftertownshipclerk@aol.com
906-632-8917 dafterwptreasurer@yahoo.com
906-632-0121
906-632-9012
906-495-5756
906-440-3301 dafterfire@yahoo.com
906-440-2144

Supervisor Update

Hello everyone, I hope you are enjoying our nice weather. Not too much to report since the last newsletter. We will be brining the roads to control the dust in late July. The cost for the Township to apply that same as we did last year will be approximately \$9,800.00. The same treatment

last year cost the Township approximately \$8,200.00. Zoning is demanding this summer having issued 7 new home zoning permits and several other garage/agricultural building zoning permits so far. I want to thank everyone who participated in the Dafter Garage Sales and the Fire

Association fundraising event. We had excellent community involvement. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or thoughts regarding our Township. Don't forget to vote and enjoy the rest of the summer. - Bob



Robert (Bob) Brown, Supervisor

Treasurer's Update

Hello everyone! Please be reminded that if you have an address change, please make sure to change it with either Chippewa County Equalization Department or contact me to update your mailing address to ensure timely receipt of your tax information.

Kareen Brown, Treasurer



Kareen Brown, Treasurer

Clerk's Update

Hi everyone!

A few updates from the Clerk's office to share. I will be starting a permanent list for those who wish to receive an application for absentee ballots for each election. If you wish to be added to the permanent list, please contact me and I will be happy to add

you. This will ensure that you receive an application for absentee voting well in advance of the election to allow enough time to complete and return it and receive your absentee ballot. We have an election on August 4. Please come out and vote!

We are continuing to work on a

new website that will include much more information, historical photos and articles and a calendar of events. Please look for this to be up and running sometime later this year, hopefully before Thanksgiving!

Jodi Hunter, Clerk



Jodi Hunter, Clerk

Trustee's Update

To the Residents of Dafter Township:

As a trustee and a member of the Dafter Township Board over the years we always provided this township with the best way we knew how to have all our residents protected as to the AMBULANCE service provided. Our

cost for that service has increased to the point where we need your help in keeping you protected in the future years. If this board could use any other solution, we would do so.....however we discussed this situation and this is our bottom line. Your vote for this millage will ease the situation cost wise

and provide the township for the next six years. We as residents never know when it will be needed. Thank You for your vote.

Yours in township news,
Bob St. Peter
Trustee



Bob St. Peter, Trustee

Fire Chief Update

Please be reminded that if you are going to be burning, please check out the DNR burn permit web site (www.michigandnr.com/burnpermits) It is updated everyday after 8 am and provides information on open burning for the day. Also, while burning yard waste is allowed, construction materials and building are not. Any questions may be directed me at 440-3301, or the local DNR office at 635-6161.

Henry Lowes, Fire Chief



Joyce Engelhardt, Trustee

July 2015

The place where people are from both sides of the tracks!



Dafter Township

Mark Your Calendar for These Important Dates:

- Election for Emergency Services Proposal for Dafter Township—August 4, 2015—PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL
- Township Board Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall except August is being held on the third Monday, August 18, 2015 this time.

Lower rates for Township Hall Rentals

The Dafter Township Board voted during the June meeting to lower the cost of renting the Dafter Township Hall. The rates had been increased last year, and subsequently resulted in less rentals and lower revenue. The Board would like to see more residents have the ability to rent the hall and therefore has decided to reduce the rates. This decision was made based on a comparison of the rates charges by other Townships with similar facilities. The new rates for renting the hall are shown on the right.

If you would like to rent the hall, please contact Dan Fox at (906) 440-2144.

TOWN HALL RENTAL

RESIDENT RATES

Whole Hall—\$100.00

One Floor—\$50.00

NON-RESIDENT RATES

Whole Hall—\$200.00

One Floor—\$75.00

For rental information, contact Dan Fox at (906) 440-2144

Dafter Firefighter's Association Fun Day Fundraiser

On June 27, the Dafter Firefighter's Association held a fundraiser and fun day while the Dafter Community Garage sales were also happening. Thank you to all that attended and supported this event. The dunk tank was definitely the highlight of the day! Fire Chief, Henry Lowes spent several hours getting dunked, followed by Bob Brown, Township Supervisor.

Congratulations to Chad Forrest of Dafter for winning the 50/50 raffle. In less than 24 hours, the firefighters and a few other volunteers sold 50/50 tickets that resulted in a cash prize of \$452 and retained the same amount for the Firefighter's Association.

The Community Garage Sales brought a lot of visitors to our area. Thank you to Nancy McDermott for all the hard work she puts in to making it a success! If you would like to participate next year, please contact Nancy to get more information. She can be reached via email at suzyq55@charter.net or 906-253-9572.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Summer Fun at the Park

The Township Park has had quite a bit of activity this year! We thought we would share some pictures of one of the games. It is sure nice to see these young people enjoying themselves.

