



THE DAILY NEWS

Greenville, Belding and Montcalm County, Michigan

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Crystal to ask income levels

Township survey will be used to help secure grant funding for streetscape

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CRYSTAL - Crystal Township residents will be asked how much they earn without having to reveal their identities.

The township and its Downtown Development Authority will conduct an income survey during the next two months. The data is needed to help secure grant funding to complete the streetscape improvements at Lake and Main streets.

"To qualify, we need to collect information of the income of people in the community," the DDA's Jeremiah Stone told Wednesday night's township board meeting. "Step 1 is to do a survey of family income, but the key thing is we do not want to know your names. It is strictly confidential.

"If it was not confidential I wouldn't touch it with a 10-foot pole," he said.

Six DDA members will comb the community's streets, going from house to house. Those who participate will be asked to complete a brief survey and return it immediately.

"We will keep track, on a separate piece of paper, those who participate," Stone said.

"We must have data from 380 households, a percentage of our population" of 2,824, he said. "We will contact 400, because some people may refuse to participate."

Stone also referred to Gov. Jennifer Granholm's current moratorium on paying out grant money.

"Once the data is collected and the state certifies that we qualify for grants, then we can get in line," he said. "Whether grants are going down the pipe or not, sooner or later the dam will break and the money will come to grants in the end. We'll have our survey and our data and be ready."

The board also approved three separate contracts with the Road Commission for Montcalm County in Stanton.

The first is to seal Peterman Drive at a cost of \$1,825, the second is to machine wedge where needed on Colby Road west of Mount Hope Road for \$2,350 and the final, most expensive, one is to machine wedge and seal Belding Street from Main to Sweet streets with a \$4,814 pricetag.

The board also discussed other roadwork but took no action.

"Our expenses are not good," Township Clerk Nan Hagerman said. "Like everyone else, we need to cut back."

"I'd love to do all of Colby Road to protect it, but we just can't do it," Township Treasurer Paula Plank said. "We just don't have the funds. I'd love to do Pakes Road. The more we wait, the more the deterioration goes."

"We can't do all," said Township Trustee Rick Chalmers. "Let's take all the big ones out and maybe do some littler ones."

Correspondent Lori Hansen is a Greenville-area resident.

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