



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Why has the Village placed a millage request on the ballot for incremental funding?**

The Village does not have the funds available to make the necessary investments to improve and maintain the village infrastructure and services to a satisfactory level. The Village's revenues are largely dependent on property taxes, which severely declined when property values fell from 2008 to 2012. In addition, the State-imposed millage reduction, commonly referred to as a "Headlee Rollback," has restricted the Village Charter millage rate, significantly reducing revenues. Another State-imposed cap limits growth of a property's taxable value from year to year, which means that as your property's market value may increase by 15% or more per year following the recession, the taxable value can only grow as much as 5% a year. These caps make it impossible, absent a Headlee Override millage, for a municipality's revenue to rebound to appropriate levels to fund both core services and investments in infrastructure.

### **What is a Headlee Override?**

A Headlee Override is a voter-approved new millage that allows a Village to restore the maximum millage rate approved in the Village Charter. The millage rate approved in the charter is 12.5 mills. The Village Charter millage rate has been reduced by the implementation of the Headlee Amendment of Michigan's Constitution, through what is commonly referred to as a "Headlee Rollback." However, the Village is requesting to restore only an additional 2.6825 mills for a period of 5 years (2019 to 2023) bringing the total millage to 11 mills.

### **Didn't we approve this millage before?**

The Village's residents have not voted to approve a Headlee rollback millage.

### **Can't the Village just cut costs to cover shortfalls?**

Since the 2008 recession, the Village has continued to make a series of cuts to costs, staff, benefits, and services. At this point, there is nothing left for the Village to cut except for core services.

**How can I learn more?** Village staff will be hosting a series of open house opportunities for residents to learn more about the ballot proposal. The dates of those Open Houses will be posted on the main page of the Village website, all social media venues and will be announced on WHMI radio. Dates will also be posted outside Village Hall.

Presentations will also be made at the Candidate Forum being held at Hamburg Township on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00pm. Other special events at the library and Senior Center will be posted.

