



## Village of Blissfield

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### **Pedestrian Bridge Project Bond Request Information October 10, 2016**

Dear Village voter;

The wooden arch pedestrian bridge between Ellis Park and Clara Bachmayer Park needs to have the two main arches replaced due to excessive rotting and damage caused by carpenter ants. In addition, the approaches to the bridge need to be rebuilt to be handicapped-accessible, per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This project is estimated to cost up to \$355,000, according to the Village's engineer.

The Village was expecting another ten years out of this bridge. In fact, our engineer inspected the bridge in September 2014, and found some rotting that could have been fixed with a relatively routine maintenance project. We put such a project together and hired a local contractor to do it. However, when he got on site in August 2015, he discovered more rotting (especially in the two main arches) and a carpenter ant infestation. The engineer re-inspected it, and as a result we had to close the bridge and work on a much larger (and more expensive) project.

Now we are faced with this (potentially) \$355,000 project that was not in our short-term planning. The Village simply does not have money available to do this project without residents approving a bond issue and the supporting millage to pay for it. We are planning a 15-year bond payback period, and that will take a .40 mils each year for those 15 years to pay the bonds back.

Please keep in mind that the Village is also planning a project to repair (or possibly replace) the swimming pool in Ellis Park that was damaged by the flood in 2015. We are looking at three options. They are 1) "minimal" repairs to put the pool back in operation (estimated cost of \$600,000), 2) repairing and "flood-proofing" the pool in its current location (estimated cost of \$750,000), and 3) building a new outdoor pool in a new location (estimated to cost \$1,200,000 - \$1,500,000). It appears the village will be asking for a bond and millage for this project at the May 2017 election. The millage to support 15-year bonds for the pool project looks like another .67 mils, .80 mils, and 1.40 mils respectively for these three options.

The following page indicates what the .40 mils for the bridge project would mean for taxpayers at various taxable values (you can find your taxable value on your most recent tax statement). Also included are the .80 mils for the "flood-proofing" option for the pool (#2) and the 1.40 mils for the "new location" option for the pool (#3):

<b>Taxable value</b>	<b>Bridge Annual Tax Amount</b>	<b>Pool Option #2 Annual Tax Amount</b>	<b>Pool Option #3 Annual Tax Amount</b>
\$25,000	\$10	\$20	\$35
\$35,000	\$14	\$28	\$49
\$50,000	\$20	\$40	\$70
\$60,000	\$24	\$48	\$84
\$75,000	\$30	\$60	\$105
\$100,000	\$40	\$80	\$140
\$125,000	\$50	\$100	\$176
\$150,000	\$60	\$120	\$211
\$175,000	\$70	\$140	\$246
\$200,000	\$80	\$161	\$281
\$250,000	\$100	\$201	\$351

The Village simply cannot do the bridge project (or the pool project, for that matter) without this funding. If the bond is not approved on November 8, the Village Council will have to decide what to do with a pedestrian bridge that can neither be reopened nor repaired. That doesn't leave many options.

The Village would appreciate it if you would consider these facts as you decide how to vote on this issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Village Office or a Village Councilman. Or, please attend the October 24 Village Council meeting (7pm at the Village Office). Most importantly, though, please vote on November 8.

Sincerely;

James A. Wonacott  
Village Administrator