

## **Oxford Township committee meeting regarding dust control and long-term road maintenance.**

Barb Snee, started the committee meeting/conversation on dust control. The reason to control dust on township roads is to improve the livability outside in the spring, summer, and fall. It was agreed that not all residents living on gravel roads are negatively impacted the same by dust. The amount of traffic, type of gravel, (cars/trucks) speed, and weather, (wet/Dry/wind/temperature) also have a substantial impact on the amount of dust coming from the roads. Residents living on the east side of north/south roads seem to experience more dust as a result of north/northwest/ west winds.

Who should pay for dust control? What roads should be treated? How many roads are gravel? Oxford Township has approximately 23 miles of gravel roads.

If the township pays for dust control treatment, and all roads are treated. That would cost the township approximately \$85,000.00 per application and at least two applications would be needed per season for a total of \$170,000.00. This is an estimate as we have not officially gone out and sought bids. Barb contacted a couple of companies to get a ball part number. Depending on the number of miles determined to be treated and the material to be used the cost could vary.

Discussion on if all roads need to have dust suppression. Some residents are not dealing with dust issues due to factors such type of gravel road they live on, how far off of gravel road they are or if they have woods near road to protect their property. Some residents would not want any chemicals put on their roads for dust suppression. Not all residents living on gravel roads are asking for help to suppress the dust or improve their road with long term solutions.

If the residents pay for dust control that would be on their own doing and would notify the township to ensure their dust control does not get grated off the road. If this is done it was discussed with Bart on the ability to grate and lift blade for those that have treated their own roads in front of their property. It was stated it could be done but not easily and it could impact the grading of the road.

A combination of the township and residents was the preferred agreement of the group with a 50/50 split. This is fair as it would save the township money on grating and maintaining the roads. As the road get treated the need for grating would be less if applied properly. The question was raised of who would be responsible for collecting the additional fees if this was to pass the board.

It was noted that water quality is the most important concern and any type of dust control should take into consideration the potential impact on water. It was suggested that we contact Tiffany Determan regarding calcium chloride or other products used for dust control.

It was also determined that the test of Bean Oil from 2022 was not financially or functionally workable.

It was stated to use water, watering trucks to help with dust suppression. No one is sure of the impact on the road, would this create more pot holes, washboard roads. How long would a watering last? 1 day possibly 2 with no help from mother nature.

Everyone was able to speak and give their opinions and at times too many conversations were going on at the same time making it hard to capture all of the thoughts people had. The long-term goal is to have blacktop on the heaviest traveled roads.

In attendance – 13 people

Respectfully submitted Mike Miller