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## NEWS BRIEF - FEBRUARY 2015 -

Grand Rapids Township finished 2014 with a General Fund surplus, thanks to a generous donation for the East Beltline Recreational Trail from Spectrum Health, in addition to the 2014 road and trail capital projects coming in under budget.

The surplus has been transferred to the Endowment Funds, along with a cell tower lease extension bonus that was received for the site behind the Township Hall. The Endowment Funds were created last year to provide for the long term care of the Township's public facilities including; parks, trails, buildings, the courthouse plaza and the East Beltline median. The Township Board is preparing for the future when increases in property values are tempered by the limits for growth within the Township.

The Great Recession illustrated that the growth that provided Grand Rapids Township the revenues to add parkland, build trails and maintain facilities, all without borrowing money, will not go on forever; therefore the Endowment Funds are essential for a sustainable future of low tax rates.

### GRT ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Status	Current Balance
Courthouse Fund	100% funded	\$191,000
E Beltline Landscape Fund	100% funded	\$200,000
Building & Grounds Fund	100% funded	\$500,000
Recreational Trail Fund	50% funded	\$500,000
Parks Fund	40% funded	\$400,000

### 2015 Construction Projects

- ◆ The interchange at Cascade Road and I-96 is scheduled to be reconfigured beginning this summer with completion in 2016, visit the MDOT website for more information; [http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,6416,7-151-9621\\_11008-344440--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,6416,7-151-9621_11008-344440--,00.html)
- ◆ The Forest Hills/Greenbrier neighborhood roads will be replaced this summer; in addition the roads in the Vineyards neighborhood will be resurfaced.
- ◆ A sanitary sewer line will be extended on Dean Lake Avenue, south of 3 Mile Road.
- ◆ Crahen Valley Park will have the valley bridge constructed in addition to an extension of the ridge trail that was started last year.

### MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> STATE WIDE ELECTION

#### Where the \$1.6 Billion in new revenue comes from;

- ◆ SALES TAX WILL NO LONGER BE CHARGED ON FUEL
- ◆ INCREASE IN SALES TAX FROM 6% TO 7%
- ◆ CHANGES THE PER GALLON FUEL TAX TO A WHOLESALE TAX FROM \$0.19/GALLON ON GASOLINE & \$0.15/GALLON FOR DIESEL FUEL TO A WHOLESALE TAX OR AN APPROXIMATE; \$0.41/GALLON EQUIVALENT
- ◆ A VEHICLE REGISTRATION SURCHARGE OF \$75 FOR ELECTRIC AND \$25 FOR HYBRID VEHICLES, AND AN INCREASE FOR HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS

#### Where the new revenue will go;

- \*\$1.2 BILLION - ROADS
- \*\$300 MILLION - SCHOOL AID FUND
- \*\$130 MILLION - MASS TRANSIT
- \*\$95 MILLION - LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

\*SOURCE: MLIVE

Grand Rapids Township remains committed to our primary responsibilities: provide essential services of Police, Fire and EMS; perform our constitutional duties of election administration, assessment of property and property tax collection; ensure that we promote appropriate land use regulations; support regional economic development; and provide for parks, open space and recreational trails.

Should you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

P: (616) 361-7391

F: (616) 361-6620

1836 East Beltline Ave NE  
Grand Rapids MI 49525

Best Regards,  
Michael J. DeVries

Supervisor

GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### QUICK NOTES...

STREET LIGHT NOT WORKING?

POT HOLE IN THE STREET?

Drainage Issues?

Report them online from the

GRT website

[www.grandrapidstwp.org](http://www.grandrapidstwp.org)