In brief, this treatment entails covering a properly prepared gravel road with a layer of special liquid asphalt called prime, then a layer of small rocks is rolled and embedded in the liquid asphalt. Typically, an additional layer of a single chip seal should be considered every 5 to 7 years.

The Road Commission notes positive experiences where the treatment is placed on “well prepared lower volume in particular, dead end gravel roads”. On the negative side, it is important to realize that lower volume gravel roads by preventing water from penetrating the road surface, improving skid resistance, and suppressing road dust. Typically, the “Opt-Out” ordinance prohibits and, also, what it does not prohibit. Specifically, the “Opt-Out” ordinance does not:

1. Permit Individual Cultivation or Possession of Marihuana.
   The ordinance does not prohibit individual cultivation (up to 12 plants within their home) or possession (up to 2.5 ounces outside of home and 10 ounces within their home) of marihuana by people 21 years of age and older.

2. Prohibit Sale of Marihuana Accessories.
   The Township cannot prohibit use by a person 21 years of age and older within that person’s property and cannot prohibit use of marihuana on private property where the owner, occupier or manager has not prohibited its use – and that is not accessible to people under 21 years of age.
   For example, a hookah lounge that sells marihuana accessories, as noted above in 2, but is not licensed to sell marihuana, would, as long as the business is restricted to people 21 years of age and older, be able to allow people to bring and use personal supplies of marihuana.

4. Prevent the Transfer of Marihuana.
   Residents may transfer marihuana – without remuneration – up to 2.5 ounces of marihuana and not more than 15 grams of marihuana concentrate to a person 21 years of age or older as long as the transfer is not advertised or promoted to the public (e.g., friend to friend).
5. **Prohibit Transportation of Marihuana.** The Township cannot prohibit the transport of marihuana through the Township—regardless of whether the Township completely prohibits recreational marihuana establishments from locating in the Township.

The “Opt-Out” Ordinance DOES:

1. **Completely Prohibit the Commercialization of Marihuana within the Township.** By adopting the “Opt-Out” ordinance, the Board is prohibiting commercial establishments that produce or transport or sell marihuana within the Township’s municipal boundaries.

2. **Disqualify the Township from any Marihuana Revenues Distributed by the State of Michigan.** Approximately 15% of the 10% excise tax on marihuana sales will be distributed to local units that allow commercial marihuana establishments. For example, if a retail marihuana store located in the Township had $10,000 of retail sales every day, the Township would qualify for about $54,750 of revenues and $10,000 of retail sales. The $59,750 maximum revenues in this example represents about 4/10ths of 1% of gross Township revenues.

   Because the MRTMA allows for local units to decide whether marihuana businesses can be located in their communities and because the Township voters rejected “Proposal 1”, the Township has taken a position that the negative consequences and costs associated with the commercialization of marihuana will likely outweigh the benefits — especially since the majority of the monies collected (i.e., about 90%) will be directed toward schools and transportation regardless of whether the Township “opts-out”.

   **OTTAWA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

   The Ottawa Conservation District was founded in 1938 by several landowners concerned with soil degradation that resulted from years of negligent land management.

   Today, the District provides information, technical assistance, and funding to serve the local community and help promote natural resources conservation.

   Some of the district services include:

   1. **Identification and Treatment of Invasive Species.** West Michigan landowners can get assistance on invasive species identification, management assistance, and restoration options.

   2. **Forestry Assistance Program.** The District Forester provides assessments related to timber stand improvement, habitat management, disease treatment, etc.

   3. **Tree Seedling and Native Plant Fundraisers.** The Spring Tree Seedling Sale will be held in April of 2019 and the Spring Native Plant Sale will be held in May of 2019. Keep watch of the District's website for catalogs and order forms.

   Many of the services offered by the Ottawa Conservation District are free or have cost-share funds to reduce the financial burden.

   To learn more about the Ottawa Conservation District please call (616) 842-5852 ext. 5, or visit:  
   www.ottawacd.org

   **PFAS TESTING**

   The North Ottawa Water System (NOWS) was tested two times in 2018 for PFAS (sometimes known as perfluorinated chemicals or PFCs) — a large group of manmade chemicals that are fire resistant, and repel oil, stains, grease, and water.

   The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) analysis reported a “not-detected” finding. However, NOWS also did preliminary sampling early in August that indicated a combined total (PFOA + PFOS) of 8.0 parts per trillion or ppt (i.e., a level comparable to 8 seconds in 31,500 years).

   What do these two different test results mean? In brief, NOWS had two different times of sampling and two different laboratories providing the analysis. Therefore, it would be expected that results are very close to each other, but not a perfect match. With this type of “infinitesimal analysis”, the outcome would have only created concern if one lab was extremely high and the other very low. However, both of the test results are well below the current standard of 70 ppt.

   As with any testing parameter, it will require more assessments. And with additional testing, NOWS can further affirm the low levels of PFAS contaminants in our water.

   NOWS will continue to test for PFAS on an annual basis.

   That said, if residents are concerned PFAS in their drinking water, some reverse osmosis filters or point-of-use (POU) granular activated carbon systems are certified to reduce PFAS. These systems will have the NSF P473 certification.

   There may be other filters that lower PFAS. However, without the NSF P473 certification, it can be difficult to know which filters effectively reduce PFAS and which do not.

   **SEWER AUTHORITY**

   The Grand Haven/Spring Lake Sewer Authority approved bids for about $14 million of improvements to the sewage collection system and treatment plant.

   The contracts were about $1 million above† construction estimates; but there were sufficient contingencies to cover the overage and still leave about $920k for other issues that might arise.

   The project has five components – two of which will benefit Grand Haven Township and will be paid, in part, by sewer users from the Township.

   The two components that will impact Township users include:

   1. The so-called “Headwork and Pumping Improvements” to the treatment plant at a cost of about $5.2 million that will be shared by all of the Sewer Authority users; and,  

   2. The “Local Pump Station” improvements at a cost of about $924k that will be funded by the sewer users in Grand Haven City and Grand Haven Township.

   The remaining $7.85 million of improvements (e.g., Grand River force main and local pump station improvements) will benefit the other municipal units and will be funded by their sewer customers.

   Bottom line – the cost increase for sewer users in Grand Haven Charter Township will be about 60 cents per 1,000 gallons.

   **PRIME & DOUBLE CHIP**

   The Township Board included monies within the FY 2019 budget for use of the so-called “Prime and Double Chip” method of constructing a surface on gravel roads.

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Footnotes:

† Construction estimates are always uncertain and subject to change. The amount may vary due to unforeseen issues during construction. It is always best to consult with the appropriate authority for the most accurate information.