



MARCH 2023

## GOVERNMENT FINANCES

### ■ The FY24 Budget takes effect

**March 1.** This Village of Grass Lake budget is a living document in support of Village priorities, a road map for infrastructure projects, and evidence of village financial well being. The budget is comprised of fund groups: General Operating, Roads (Major and Local), DDA, Building Inspections, Water, and Sewer. Taxes provide the revenue stream for the first four; fees for services provided are responsible for the latter three.

Our valuable water resource requires daily testing to maintain an infrastructure free of contaminants. Wastewater must be safely transported to the Leoni treatment facility in order to protect the health and



well being of all concerned.

Fees for these water and sewer services must be enough to cover day-to-day expenses, and allow for investment in routine upgrades as well as major overhauls. Combined annual expenses for both

services are more than \$1 million.

The budget process begins in July the previous year with updates to long-term project estimates and asset management, plus the list for potential capital investment projects. Council evaluated the data and agreed that rate increases for water and sewer are necessary in the FY24 budget in order to safeguard the systems that residents depend upon.

Residents can expect notification by mail regarding the financial effect of the new rates for services. The FY24 budget is available at: <https://villagegrasslakemi.documents-on-demand.com/>

Questions may be directed to: [villagemanager@villageofgrasslake.com](mailto:villagemanager@villageofgrasslake.com).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

■ <https://www.facebook.com/GrassLakeMIKiwanis>: Find out how you can positively impact our community and change the future for children at a start up meeting on Thurs., March 2 @ 6:30 pm, held at the Whistlestop Depot.

■ **Scholarship Applications due by April 15:** The Friends of Grass Lake Township Scholarship program is open to Grass Lake High School Seniors for \$1,000 Scholarships (to be awarded in May 2023). Applications are available at the Grass Lake High School Guidance Counselor's Office, or Dale Fisher Gallery at 916 Norvell Road; call 517-522-3705 to schedule pick-up time at the Gallery. Applications must be returned to the Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2023 at 5 PM. Mail to: Friends of

**Spring forward:** Sunday, March 12 starts Eastern Daylight Savings time.

Grass Lake Township, PO Box 762, Grass Lake, MI 49240, or drop off at the Gallery.

■ **Council Congratulations** to Grass Lake's kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Sandy Wolfinger, for being named Jackson Magazine's 2023 Teacher of the Year!

■ **MISS DIG 811** Keep in mind that MISS DIG should be called for before planting trees, or installing above ground raised beds etc. as long ago buried pipes and wires can be unwanted surprises.

DPW Reported that it took additional, labor-intensive work to reach this homeowner's water valve, that the team found located at the bottom of raised, flower bed, and beneath a tree root.



■ **Connect with the Village anytime at [www.villageofgrasslake.com](http://www.villageofgrasslake.com)** ■

## GOVERNMENT

■ **Resolving issues:** Public-posted **Council meetings** are where its official business is transacted. **Public Hearings** are public-posted Council meetings held specifically to provide an airing of finalized versions of ordinances or budgets to the public prior to seeking approval at a Council meeting. Alloted time for **public comment** is provided during all such meetings. Hearings are held only after much research, public-posted workshop meetings plus discussions with interested residents. It is a common misconception to expect answers during public comment time; Council listens but does not engage in discussion, as in a Town Hall meeting. The solution can be to reach the Village Manager, Village President or Clerk during business days (9 am - 4 pm, M-Th) to exchange information. Residents and business owners may then have in-depth discussion over concerns—those that impact all residents, an individual issue, or general topics. Council trustees may be reached via email (see our Village website), or by appointment.

### ■ Meetings at the Village Hall:

- Thursday, March 2 @7:00 pm: **Village Planning Commission (PC) Public Hearing**, followed by a **PC Meeting @ 7:30 pm.**
- Monday, March 6 @ 6:30 pm: **Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board.**
- Tuesday, March 7 @7:00 pm: **Village Council.**
- Tuesday, March 21 @7:00 pm: **Village Council.**

### *Other meetings of interest, with other locations:*

- Thursday, March 2 @ 6:30 pm: **Kiwanis Club** organizational meeting, Whistlestop Depot.
- Thursday, March 9 @8:00 am: **Chamber of Commerce**, Lost Railway Museum.
- Tuesday, March 14 @6:30 pm: **Grass Lake Charter Township Board Meeting**, Township Hall.
- Monday, March 20 @6:00 pm: **Community Wellness Coalition**, Lost Railway Museum.

## HISTORY

**Grass Lake has a story for National Women's History Month:** Grass Lake is oldest settlement in Jackson County (1871).

Over the years, elected offices in the village government were traditionally held by men, even during wartimes. But in 1947, the Grass Lake ladies took the "men of the village by surprise."

Dissatisfied with the current leadership, several women took action with an unexpected, and well-organized, write-in campaign for that year's Grass Lake village council elections. These elections took place annually on the second Monday in March. The first hint of the ladies' impending assault on Grass Lake's male-dominated council came in a *Grass Lake News* article on February 20, 1947, that reported on the formation of the Young Women's Party.

Two weeks later on election day, these motivated candidates of the Young Women's



(Standing) trustees Reta Cook, Jennie McClure, Ethel Cowden and Marjorie Foster. (Seated) Thelma Snodgrass, assessor, Helen McCall, elected village president; Vera Haven, clerk; Mabel Hagadon, treasurer.

Party captured seven of the council's 10 seats. "We kind of reversed things," quoted one of the newly-elected women." Instead of

promising things and not delivering them, we promised nothing, but delivered something."

Information provided by Michigan's Military Heritage Museum.

Photo: The Grass Lake News

**Grass Lake express** is produced by Village of Grass Lake staff as a community information resource and we welcome your feedback. Contact information, including emails, phone numbers, and office hours, are found on the website.

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