

Goodrich Village mulling county road service offer

GOODRICH -- The Village Council had more questions than answers last week in considering an offer from the Genesee County Road Commission to service the village's roads.

During Monday's council meeting, members discussed the offer that appeared in a June 26 letter to Council President Edward York from Road Commission manager-director John H. Daly III.

Daly said the move could create more efficiency, because county crews already are working on state and township roads that surround villages.

"This is an intent to offer villages an alternative they haven't had before. It's solely at their discretion," he said.

Council member Patricia Wartella said accepting the Road Commission offer would save the village money because it would eliminate the need for a Department of Public Works.

"I applaud (Daly) for offering us this olive branch," said Wartella. "If we could eliminate the DPW, we could eliminate wages, fringes, equipment. That is a substantial amount of money."

Others on the council said it could slow response time, while still others said they know of communities unhappy county-run road service.

"They're (Road Commission) looking for money and they're saying 'If you give us your Act 51 money, we'll take care of the roads.' That means we wouldn't have a need for DPW workers, but there are other factors we need to consider," said York.

"Are they going to be as responsive? Are they going to clean the roads that night or the next day? Where are we going to be on their priority list? There was no information in the letter, just the offer."

Villages and cities receive money to pay for streets from Michigan's Public Act 51. The village would use those funds to pay for the Road Commission service. Goodrich receives \$99,300 annually in Act 51 money, said Village Administrator Jakki Sidge

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