

## **HOPE TOWNSHIP WATER PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET (rev. 02-06-10)**

Hope Township has been working for several years towards bringing municipal water from Midland to a portion of the township. The “special assessment district” is the collection of properties that will have access to the public water. The owner(s) of each parcel will pay the same assessment price per parcel for the installation of the municipal water lines. The goal is to have this price be less than \$10,000 per parcel. The cost is one price per parcel of property, whether there is a house on it or not. This assessment can be paid up front or financed through a Rural Development Loan over 40 years, at a low interest rate. The assessment must be paid whether the home connects to the water system or not. In order for this special assessment district to be established, petitions in support of this project must be signed by **all persons listed on the deed and requires** 51% or more of the special assessment district.

### **Information about the Petition Drive:**

- All landowners of record in the proposed special assessment district (Hope Township residents or non residents) must have signed the petition for the acreage to be counted.
- If persons on the deed are deceased, a copy of the death certificate is required.
- If a person owns multiple parcels, separate petition signatures must be obtained for each parcel.
- The parcel ID and the parcel mailing address must be listed.
- Please mail signed petition by February 15, 2010 (copy on website [www.hopetwp.org](http://www.hopetwp.org)). Send to **Hope Water, P.O. Box 12, Hope, MI 48628**

### **The overall process is as follows:**

- The special assessment district will be determined by the Township Board when the petition drive is completed.
- The estimated project costs will be determined, with an estimate cost per parcel.
- First Public hearing held.
- Detailed engineering completed.
- The project is put out for bids.
- Second Public Hearing to finalize the assessment roll.
- Installation of the water system will be started.

### **Additional information:**

- Both public and private roads have been included in the special assessment district. On public roads the water lines can be installed in the road right-of-ways. On private roads, easements may be necessary.
- For this project, adjoining lots with multiple deeds can be considered one parcel if joined on the Tax Roll
- When the water main is installed a permit to connect to the system is required. A permit fee of up to \$2325 must be paid to Water District #1. The hook-up fee covers the cost of tapping the water main, a curb box and a ¾“meter at the house
- Each homeowner is responsible for installing the service line from the property line to the house.
- If the property is sold before the special assessment fee is paid in full, it is possible to transfer the special assessment fees to the purchaser. Sellers should check with their realtor and/or Financial Institutions for their individual requirements.