



Internal Memo

April 2, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator *MCM*

SUBJECT: General Information Packet

Attached are general items of information you may find interesting. If you have any questions or comments regarding the information, please contact me.

MCM/th
Attachments



PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL INFORMATION SHEET

May 5, 2020



Key Facts

- Originally passed by voters in 2011
- Renewal of up to 2 mills for ten additional 10 years
- Dedicated to **public safety only**
- Allows the City to maintain:
 - * 4 Police Officer Positions
 - * 3 Firefighter Positions
 - * Water Safety Services
 - * Education and Specialty Programs



What is the millage money used for?

The Public Safety Millage has and will support operations of the Fire and Police Departments and help maintain staffing and specialty programs. Four Patrol Officers and three Firefighter positions will be retained.

What if the millage isn't renewed?

The City will be forced to reduce Fire and Police staffing and have to consider eliminating community outreach and specialty programs. Programs in jeopardy include residential property checks, smoke detector evaluation and installation, water safety services, public education programs and many others.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

March 2020

I want to take this opportunity to explain the public safety millage renewal proposal that will be voted on May 5th. I look at this millage renewal as being extremely important to the citizens of this great City from both a safety and economic standpoint.

The proposed public safety millage renewal would allow the City Council to continue the levy of up to 2 mills for an additional ten years. The City Council can choose to levy less on an annual basis, and currently the levy is 1.35 mills. Keep in mind, this millage proposal is a renewal of an existing ten-year millage and is dedicated solely to public safety purposes. All funds generated by this millage renewal must be kept in a separate fund and used only for police and fire purposes. The current levy of 1.35 mills provides funding for seven public safety positions total (4 police officers and 3 fire fighters) and is necessary to continue our public safety operations at the levels you are accustomed to in Norton Shores.

In closing, the old adage remains true as it did before; “You get what you pay for”. You have a choice to make that will directly determine the level of public safety we are able to provide as a public service. We understand that the decision is never easy based on individual circumstance. However, a properly funded and staffed Police and Fire Department is one of the many reasons why you may choose to live here. Norton Shores is without a doubt a great place to work and live. Even so, any decline in our public safety levels will amount to a loss in our quality of life we so graciously cherish.

I appreciate your consideration on the proposed millage renewal and hope that you will take the time to understand all the variables as you prepare to vote on May 5th. Please take a moment to review the information included in this newsletter and the other materials on the City’s official website www.nortonshores.org. Contact information has been provided and please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us, staff and council members, with your questions or concerns regarding this public safety millage renewal proposal.

Sincerely,

Gary Nelund

Gary Nelund
Mayor



VOTING ON MAY 5, 2020

ELECTORS AND RESIDENTS OF NORTON SHORES – In response to Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order 2020-27, polling places will not be open for in-person voting on May 5th to minimize COVID-19 exposure. **Voting will be conducted by absentee ballot only.**

If you are a registered voter in Norton Shores, not currently on our permanent absent voter (AV) list, you will receive instructions and an AV ballot application with postage paid return envelope from the Michigan Bureau of Elections soon. After your application is received in our office and processed, you will be mailed a ballot and postage paid ballot return envelope.

We appreciate your cooperation in following the Stay Home order currently in place and continuing that practice as long as necessary including exercising your right to vote in the safest way possible on May 5th.

Contact the Clerk’s Office with any questions at 231-798-4391 or clerk@nortonshores.org
Register to vote or verify your voter status at Michigan.gov/Vote

The City of Norton Shores is placing a Public Safety Millage Renewal proposal on the May 5, 2020 ballot. We trust the following information will be useful in making an informed decision before you vote.

What is a Public Safety Millage?

The Public Safety Millage provides funds specifically for Fire and Police services. This is to **renew a millage** in which taxes have been collected since 2011. This millage is due to expire.

Why do we need a millage?

Funds for Fire and Police services come from the General Fund. This fund is comprised of money received from property taxes and state shared revenue sources. These sources have not been adequate to collect enough money to provide the public safety needs of our community.



What millage amount is proposed?

The current millage to levy **up to 2 mills** is being proposed for renewal. Two mills would raise approximately \$1,688,358. However, the City currently levies 1.35 mills which raises approximately \$1,226,602.

Cost per year for 2 mills.

Home Value	2 Mills
\$100,000	\$100
\$200,000	\$200
\$300,000	\$300

Will the money be used for public safety only?

The law requires that all money collected under the millage be kept in a **separate dedicated fund** for public safety services only.

What has the City done to reduce expenses?

The City no longer offers defined benefit pension plans and retiree health insurance to newly hired employees. Also, we've contracted public safety services with Muskegon County Airport, Mona Shores School District, City of Roosevelt Park and the Health Project to offset costs.



How many Firefighters are on duty at each station?

Each 24-hr shift typically has eight full-time personnel on duty: one Captain, one Lieutenant and six Firefighters assigned between four stations. Additionally, our Part-time Firefighters supplement the department readiness by staffing stations when needed and responding to calls for service off duty.

How many Patrol Officers are on the road?

The Police Department employs four shifts of four officers to cover road patrol duties. Additionally, community officers and detectives handle non-emergency type calls and investigations serving over 24,000 residents. Average staffing levels in Michigan for police agencies are 1.8 per 1,000 residents. This places our police department ten officers below the Michigan average.

Is this a tax increase?

No, this is a renewal of a millage amount already included in your tax bill.

How long will the millage be in effect?

The millage would continue for another ten-year period.

Need more information?

- City Administrator 231-798-4391
- Finance Director 231-332-2031
- Fire Department 231-798-2255
- Police Department 231-733-2691



nortonshores.org
4814 Henry St.
Norton Shores, MI 49441

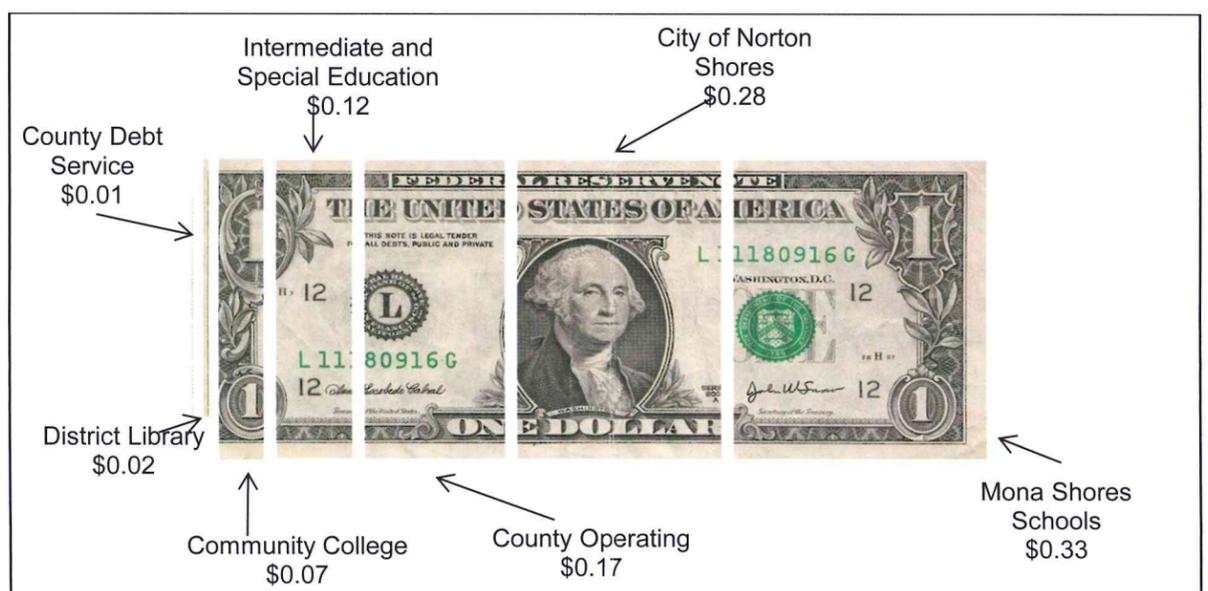


Operating Tax Levy for Local Government Units in Muskegon County

Local Unit	Millage Rate
City of Muskegon Heights	22.8 *
City of Roosevelt Park	16.6
City of Montague	16.5
City of Whitehall	15.7
City of Muskegon	13 *
City of North Muskegon	12.2
City of Norton Shores	10.95

Source: Muskegon County Equalization 2019 Apportionment Report
* These cities also collect income tax.

Where does your tax dollar go?



Mark Meyers

From: Mark Meyers
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Council Member Hylland; Daniel Olson; Mayor Nelund
Cc: Bob Gagnon; Ted Karnitz; buildingofficial
Subject: Building and Trade Inspections During EO-2021

Good morning,

Staff has been discussing how building and trade inspections may be continued in residential homes per the governor's Executive Order 20-21, Stay Home, Stay Safe. Under EO 20-21, with further clarification from the AG's Office, contractors who are allowed to work include, "Workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences." I believe this would include HVAC contractors as well. These businesses "sustain and protect life" under the order.

To protect our employees, contracted trade inspectors and residents the following measures will be followed regarding building and trade inspections. Building inspection staff will, to the extent possible, consider photographs and video of work to inspect jobs. Whether inspections can be adequately performed in such a manner will be determined on a case-by-case basis as some jobs will allow for it and others will not. Further, if inspections cannot be performed "remotely," inspectors may enter a residence to perform a physical inspection under certain protocols. Such protocols shall include screening all occupants through a completed health survey and the wearing of relevant PPE by staff. Such inspections will be performed on work relating to life safety issues only (e.g., drinking water, sanitary sewer, electricity, heating/cooling, etc.).

For work related to none life safety issues, if it cannot be inspected remotely, homeowners may continue to occupy residences and the work will be inspected once EO 2021 is lifted and it is deemed safe to do so.

I hope this helps address your concerns regarding building and trade inspections. It's by no means perfect, but this is obviously a less than perfect situation. Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Regards,

Mark
231-798-4391
231-557-8606

Whitmer signs Executive Order prioritizing absentee voting in May 5 elections

Posted on March 30, 2020 by hrichards@mml.org

By Executive Order 2020-27, Gov. Whitmer will be temporarily suspending the rules and procedures relating to the May 5, 2020 elections so that these elections may be conducted by absent voter ballot to the greatest extent possible. Rules and procedures relating to the withdrawal of ballot proposals from the May 5, 2020 elections will also be suspended to better enable jurisdictions to move those elections to the August 4, 2020 election date.

At this time, conducting an in-person election would force voters and poll workers to be exposed to an unacceptably high risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. Each jurisdiction must maintain at least one location on election day where any voter can appear in person to receive and submit a ballot, including an individual with a disability that inhibits the individual from voting an absent voter ballot remotely.

Because all registered electors in Michigan have the right to vote by absent voter ballot under section 4 of article 2 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, conducting the May 5, 2020 elections by absent voter ballot provides a viable alternative to in-person voting at polling locations. Doing so permits Michigan voters to exercise their democratic rights while minimizing their exposure to the imminent and severe threat posed by COVID-19. And enabling jurisdictions to delay elections currently scheduled for May 5, 2020, where possible will further limit the disruption and harm caused by this pandemic.

The details of the Executive Order is below:

1. To protect the public health, safety, and welfare of this state and its residents, strict compliance with rules and procedures under chapter 28 of the Michigan Election Law ("Election Law"), 1954 PA 116, as amended, MCL 168.641 to 168.799a (conducting an election at a polling place) and under chapter 29 of the Election Law, MCL 168.801 to 168.813 (canvassing of the vote by inspectors of an election at a polling place) is temporarily suspended for elections on May 5, 2020, so that those elections may be conducted as specified in this order.\

2. Elections on May 5, 2020, must be conducted to the greatest extent possible by absent voter ballots issued and submitted without in-person interaction. Each jurisdiction must maintain at least one (1) location on election day where any voter can appear in-person to receive and submit a ballot, including an individual with a disability that inhibits the individual from voting an absent voter ballot remotely. A local clerk, county clerk, or election administrator with an election on May 5, 2020 must immediately begin preparations to conduct that election primarily by mail, including the preparation of postage-prepaid absent voter ballot return envelopes for the return of voted ballots.

3. An individual possessing the qualifications of an elector under section 492 of the Election Law, MCL 168.492, who is not registered to vote but wants to register and vote in the May 5, 2020 election, is strongly encouraged to register online or by mail not later than Monday, April 20, 2020, and is strongly discouraged from going in-person to the office of the clerk of the township or city in which the individual resides to apply to register to vote. An individual can register to vote either online (by visiting mivc.sos.state.mi.us/registervoter) or by mail (using the form available at michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf).

4. Notwithstanding section 3 of this order, an individual possessing the qualifications of an elector under section 492 of the Election Law, MCL 168.492, who is not registered to vote but wants to register and vote in the May 5, 2020 election after April 20, 2020, may apply to register to vote at the office of the clerk of the city or township in which the individual resides during any hours in which the clerk's office is open, as provided in chapter 23 of the Election Law, MCL 168.491 to 168.530, and as provided in sections 5 and 6 of this order.

5. An individual seeking to register to vote in-person at the office of the clerk of the city or township in which the individual resides is strongly encouraged to contact the clerk's office before doing so. To facilitate the timely processing of applications to register to vote and to minimize social interaction, beginning on April 21, 2020, and continuing through May 5, 2020, a township or city clerk may accept copies of applications to register to vote and residency verifications by mail, email, or facsimile for purposes of registration and verification by the clerk.

6. A clerk processing an in-person application to register to vote, any in-person voting in the clerk's office, and any individuals in the clerk's office must use best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and must comply with any applicable restrictions or requirements to that effect.

7. Any application to register to vote that is properly submitted beginning on the effective date of this order and continuing through May 5, 2020, by a voter residing in a jurisdiction holding an election on May 5, 2020, must also be considered a request for an absent voter ballot for the May 5, 2020 election.

8. Strict compliance with rules and procedures under section 646a of the Election Law, MCL 168.646a, is temporarily suspended for the limited purpose of permitting a political subdivision of this state that has certified a ballot question for placement on the ballot on May 5, 2020, to withdraw the ballot question. Removal of the question must be by the same method used by the local legislative body to certify the question to the ballot (such as by the adoption or rescission of a resolution or ordinance). If the county clerk is notified of the withdrawal by March 27, 2020, the ballot question must not be canvassed for the May 5, 2020 election. Ballot questions removed from a May 5, 2020 election may be submitted to voters at the August 4, 2020, or a later election date.

9. The Department of State may assist local clerks, county clerks, and election administrators with: the mailing of absent voter ballot applications with a postage-prepaid, pre-addressed return envelope to each registered voter within any jurisdiction conducting a May 5, 2020 election; the preparation of postage-prepaid absent voter ballot return envelopes; the coordination of county and state assistance in processing ballots; changes to election dates; and other local clerk functions to the extent local jurisdictions are unable to perform them.

10. This order is effective immediately.

The full Executive Order is available here: EO 2020-27.

\$2 Trillion Federal Stimulus Bill Headed To President

Posted on **March 26, 2020** by **Chris Hackbarth**

The US Senate passed H.R. 748, the CARES Act, Wednesday night and the House voted Friday to send the bill to the President. The bill appropriates more than \$2 trillion as an economic stimulus effort in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within the final proposal, a \$150 billion stabilization fund for state and local governments was secured that MML and NLC had advocated for with our congressional delegation. The \$150 billion will be distributed to states and directly to local governments that have a population greater than 500,000. Local governments of less than 500,000 population would receive any funding from the state's allocation. Early estimates show Michigan receiving over \$3.8 billion from this fund.

The bill also provides money for community development block grants and provides relief to the municipal bond market by allowing the purchase of municipal securities (with maturities greater than 6 months) in the secondary market.

In comments from our partners at NLC, one key item they were unable to get corrected relates to the previous federal stimulus bill, public law 116-127 (HR 6201), the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. Under this new law, governmental employers are required to provide paid sick leave and paid emergency family leave. However, unlike most employers, governmental employers will not get the benefit of the tax credits for providing these benefits.

Below you will find a list of key items that NLC had been advocating for in the Senate bill based upon the latest version they were able to review before passage:

AIRPORTS

Federal Aviation Administration, Airport Improvement Program (AIP) – \$10 billion to maintain operations at our nation's airports that are facing a record drop in passengers. AIP funds will be distributed by formula.

Essential Air Service (EAS) – \$56 million provided to maintain existing air service to rural communities. This funding is necessary to offset the reduction in overflight fees that help pay for the EAS program.

TRANSIT

Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Transit Infrastructure Grants – \$25 billion for transit providers, including states and local governments across the country, for operating and capital expenses. Funding will be distributed using existing FTA formulas.

RAIL

Amtrak – Provides \$492 million in grants for the Northeast Corridor and \$526 million in grants for the broader national network to cover revenue losses related to coronavirus. In addition, funding is provided to help states pay for their share of the cost of state supported routes.

USDA

- RURAL DEVELOPMENT – \$145.5 million
- RURAL BUSINESS COOPERATIVE SERVICE – \$20.5 million

HHS

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** – \$900 million to help lower income households heat and cool their homes.

EPA

- \$770,000 for the Superfund program to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally for necessary expenses for cleaning and disinfecting equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the Environmental Protection Agency

Commerce

- Economic Development Administration: \$1,500,000,000
- Manufacturing Extension Partnership: \$50,000,000
- Legal Services Corporation: \$50,000,000

Small Business Administration

- Economic Injury Disaster Loans: \$562,000,000

HUD

- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance: \$1,250,000,000
- Project-Based Rental Assistance: \$1,000,000,000
- Public Housing Operating Fund: \$685,000,000
- Community Development Block Grants: \$5,000,000,000
- Homeless Assistance Grants: \$4,000,000,000
- Housing for the Elderly: \$50,000,000
- Housing for Persons with Disabilities: \$15,000,000

Broadband Connectivity

- \$25,000,000 for U.S. Department of Agriculture Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Program
- \$100,000,000 extension for U.S. Department of Agriculture ReConnect rural broadband competitive grant/loan program
- \$200,000,000 for Federal Communications Commission telehealth pilot program

Law Enforcement, Public Safety & Criminal Justice

- Resources for Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement: \$850 million for the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne-JAG)
- Federal Bureau of Prisons: \$100 million
- Federal Law Enforcement: \$55 million for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Attorneys
- Federal Judiciary: \$7.5 million for three accounts in the Judicial Branch.
- Family Violence Prevention Services: \$45 million to support families during this uncertain time, and to prevent and respond to family and domestic violence, including offering shelter and supportive services to those who need it.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Defense Production Act: \$1 billion to allow the Department of Defense to invest in manufacturing capabilities that are key to increasing the production rate of personal protective equipment and medical equipment to meet the demand of healthcare workers all across the nation.
- Assistance to Firefighter Grants: \$100 million for personal protective equipment for first responders.

Disaster Assistance

- Disaster Relief Fund: \$45 billion to provide for the immediate needs of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. Reimbursable activities may include medical response, personal protective equipment, National Guard deployment, coordination of logistics, safety measures, and community services nationwide.
- Emergency Management Performance Grants: \$100 million for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to support coordination, communications, and logistics.
- National Guard: \$1.4 billion for deployments to sustain up to 20,000 members of the National Guard, under the direction of the governors of each state, for the next six months in order to support state and local response efforts.
- FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program: \$200 million

The National Conference of State Legislatures has also provided the following summary of the Senate's action with additional links to supplementary information – NCSL link.

Speaker Pelosi and officials with the Federal Reserve have indicated the potential for additional additional legislative or administrative stimulus support and both have identified state and local government needs as candidates for additional support. We will provide additional information as it becomes available following the expected House action and signature by the President.

Chris Hackbarth is the League's director of state & federal affairs. He can be reached at 517-908-0304 and chackbarth@mml.org.

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This entry was posted in **Economic Development, Federal, Grant Opportunity, Infrastructure, Legislative Link Articles, Municipal Finance, Stimulus Funding, Transportation, Transit** by **Chris Hackbarth**. Bookmark the **permalink** [<http://blogs.mml.org/wp/inside208/2020/03/26/2-trillion-federal-stimulus-bill-passes-senate/>].

Mark Meyers

From: Community Foundation for Muskegon County <info@muskegonfoundation.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Mark Meyers
Subject: Please read: Details about the new COVID-19 Response Fund

[View this email in your browser](#)



Greetings from the Community Foundation!

We hope you're staying well as COVID-19 is impacting our families and the broader Muskegon community in new and challenging ways every day.

It is our fundamental belief that we are stronger when we face these obstacles together. So, we've teamed up with United Way of the Lakeshore to create a [COVID-19 Response Fund](#) held at United Way. With \$30,000 of seed funding from both organizations, plus support from Meijer and the Consumers Energy Foundation, this fund will support nonprofits who are helping our vulnerable community members deal with the fallout from the coronavirus.*

We ask you to join us in this effort.

Give online to the [COVID-19 Response Fund](#) or mail your check to United Way of the Lakeshore, PO BOX 207, Muskegon, 49443-0207. If you have a Donor Advised Fund with us, simply email grants@muskegonfoundation.org to recommend a grant toward the cause.

Together, we can bolster our community, allowing everyone to access the services they need most.

**A note from President/CEO Todd Jacobs: "I was on a conference call yesterday with several nonprofit partners. I heard organizations like Mission for Area People share that the funds they have for prescription assistance are running out, and Catholic Charities has seen nearly a 100% increase at the pantry. Every Woman's Place is feeling cash strapped because a key fundraiser had to be cancelled. As the stay at home order continues, we anticipate greater demand for basic needs. We also expect housing assistance to increase next month."*



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