

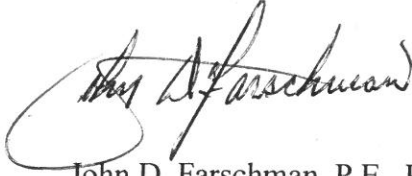
October 2, 2019

Citizens of Erie County

In a recent article, *A new income source will help Erie County fix roads ...*, in the September 28th edition of the Register there were erroneous statements made which need cleared up.

- While the commissioners want only asphalt resurfacing, which is exactly what I have sought funding to do, it just is not going to happen, as portrayed. There are statements made in that article that are not factual and are misleading to the public.
- There will be no grandiose pie in the sky all-encompassing elimination of chip seal at one fell swoop as implied in this article. Not by a long shot.
- The county engineer agreed that all those monies derived FROM A SALES TAX INCREASE resulting from being placed on the ballot and subsequently passing, would be dedicated to resurfacing roadways. Any reference otherwise is completely inaccurate. There has been no commitment from this office to eliminate chip seal without a sales tax.
- The funding received through the GAS TAX increase has nothing to do with the proposed SALES TAX increase. Some, but not all, of those new state gas tax revenues certainly will be used to upgrade our pavements.
- Finally, our estimated ADDITIONAL funding needed to complete asphalt resurfacing all our county roads over a ten year cycle is \$2.7 million annually. We are supposed to receive \$1.5 million annually through the gas tax increase. We are still SHORT \$1.2 million annually and we are not even come close to satisfying those needs.
- It is reasonable to assume that as much as \$1.0 million of our new \$1.5 million sales tax revenues will be added to our "typically" funded roadway program which includes chip seal. (We still have bridges to replace). This will now increase our current program by \$1.0 million to \$3.5 million. With the additional funding available, we commit to do what we can to reduce the amount of chip seal

necessary to preserve our roadways. Chip seal is not "placing a band-aid on the problem." It is an important, cost effective and proven maintenance technique to stop pavement oxidation and seal cracks. Even with the new gas tax revenues it is not near enough to eliminate chip seal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Farschman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

John D. Farschman, P.E., P.S.
Erie County Engineer

JDF/ceg

Xc: Master File

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION



September 5, 2019

PAY TO

THE ORDER OF

Erie County Commissioners \$ 1,500,000.00

One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars.....00/100 DOLLARS

County Road Improvements

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine, Governor

CLOSE

Sandusky Reg. Sept 28, 2019
@ 12:00pm

SANDUSKY — A new income source will help Erie County fix roads the local government oversees.

Earlier this week, the county commissioners found out they'll receive their first \$1.5 million annual payout from the Ohio Department of Transportation specifically for servicing streets. The money is earmarked and can get spent in 2020.

The funds come from a statewide increase in the gas tax, which went into effect earlier this year. It'll get deposited into an account managed by county engineer Jack Farschman, adding to the \$2.5 million typically earmarked each year for road repairs.

Now, with \$4 million, and going forward, county commissioners only want the engineer's office to resurface roads instead of "chip sealing" or "tar and chipping" them.

Akin to "placing a Band-Aid on the problem," commissioners said, these processes involves a stone-based technique to extend pavement life. It doesn't, however, eliminate bumps.

Why it was used: Chip sealing typically costs one-eighth the amount compared to completely resurfacing that same given roadway section.

"(County engineer Jack) Farschman has agreed that this money will only be used for resurfacing county roads," commissioner Pat Shenigo said. "There are a number of ways we can continue to keep our roads in Erie County in tip-top condition that certainly can be done with this money that don't involve tar and chip."

Receiving the state check also eliminates any notion of officials possibly pursuing a countywide sales tax hike for this very purpose.

Earlier this year, Farschman asked the commissioners to consider raising the sales tax rate, from 6.75 percent to 6.85 percent, to pay for road repairs. The amount would have generated \$1.6 million.

Commissioners slammed the brakes for several reasons.

For starters, it would be unfair for many county residents.

"If we raised a countywide sales tax, everyone in the county would pay that additional tax increase, but the money would only be spent on the roads owned by Erie County," commissioner Matt Old said. "We believed this would cause confusion for people who lived on bad roads elsewhere, such as those owned by Sandusky, Huron and Perkins Township. They would wonder why their roads weren't being fixed."

At this time, they also contended Farschman would receive close to his desired amount with this new gas tax revenue stream — and he did.

"This is exactly why we didn't need to do a sales tax increase because we received a similar amount to what Jack wanted, which he'll use to resurface roads," Old said. "We're also excited that Jack, with this money, has agreed that we'll, once and for all, eliminate tar and chipping our roads for our citizens."

Reach reporter Andy Ouriel at ouriel@sanduskyregister.com and follow him on Twitter [@AndyOuriel](https://twitter.com/AndyOuriel).