

As many know, the Aspen Springs Metro District takes care of all of our 62 miles of road here in Aspen Springs. That means snow removal, grading, placement of gravel and mag chloride, cleaning culverts and ditches. In addition, the ASMD is also responsible for the park in the greenbelt, as well as our local water station. This includes chlorinating and testing the water, cleaning the tanks, maintaining the controls for the distribution, and any other maintenance and repairs that should arise. Although those are the main responsibilities, many more duties come about regularly.

We have two full-time and one part-time employees to do all of this and they do a superb job! Unfortunately, many people are seeing a decline in the quality of the roads.

Aspen Springs includes approximately 62 miles of roads which the District maintains. As more people have moved out here, the traffic on our roads has increased greatly over the last *four decades*. The district's income is primarily generated by a percentage of your property taxes in Aspen Springs. Another major revenue source, the Highway Users Trust Fund (gas tax) has declined by approximately 25% over the past years as the County has adjusted the distribution of these funds.

Due to Colorado's property tax formula, the amount of property tax received by the Metro District has not kept pace with the increase in population. In addition, costs for wages, gravel, mag-chloride, fuel, repairs, and equipment have gone up and we have increased traffic tearing up the roads. The road crew repairs and maintains the aging equipment to extend its useful life and stretches the budget for materials to the breaking point. Already, the District has been forced to dip into reserves to maintain the standard of road that we have enjoyed over the years.

This year a mill-levy increase will be considered on the November ballot. If your home is worth \$100,000.00, the proposed increase in the taxes would be approximately \$36. A vacant lot valued at \$10,000 would see a tax increase of around \$14.50 annually. 100% of this increase would return to Aspen Springs for our local roads, park and water.

Without additional funds, Aspen Springs roads will continue to deteriorate as gravel and labor are stretched to the limit. \$36 dollars a year seems a

reasonable price to pay to protect the value of your property and your vehicle. How much would it cost to put one inch of gravel in your drive? Imagine what it would cost for 62 miles! Folks, this is really important. The funds are dwindling and at this rate, it is jeopardizing the existence of our district.

Below I have included a chart to show you just how much certain items have increased in the last 30 years. I'm sure none of you would be able to make it if your income hadn't increased in twenty-six years and you still had to survive at today's prices. Please help us move forward.

| Description | Cost in Early 1990's | Cost in 2020 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gravel | \$6.00/ton | \$10.00/ton |
| Diesel Fuel | \$1.50/gallon | \$2.47/gallon |
| Mag Chloride | \$.44/gallon | \$.81/gallon |
| Minimum Wage | \$4.25/hour | \$12.00/hour |
| Average Cost of a Truck | \$22,000.00 | \$50,000.00 |
| Loaf of Bread | \$1.59/loaf | \$3.69/loaf |
| Eggs | \$.87/dozen | \$3.29/dozen |