

DUST ABATEMENT

For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Special Road District No. 8 should collect about \$81,800 in assessments. This money is to “maintain and improve” the roads in our district. For us to continue to apply dust abatement to our roads, we would have to increase our income in some manner. We are working towards a more long-term solution.

Currently our tax rate is 1.6239 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This rate was frozen by state law in 1997 and cannot be increased.

For several years the assessment funds covered grading (usually Spring and Fall), snow plowing and dust abatement for East/West roads only. The dust abatement expense for 2019 used about 77% of our annual budget. And, *dust abatement costs increase every year by about 10%*. For 2022 the dust abatement application would cost no less than \$70,543, but probably more. After these expenses, no money remains for gravel and alignment, which is required to “maintain” or “improve” the roads.

Here’s a look at the finances for calendar year 2019 (the last year dust abatement was applied)

Income:	\$69,000
Dust Abatement:	\$53,000
Snow Plowing:	\$4,955
Grading:	\$3,118
Other:	<u>\$2,300</u> (insurance, office expenses, etc.)
Balance after Expenses:	\$5,627

***Dust abatement was a huge portion of our yearly budget
and lasts only about four months.***

In the Spring of 2020 the Board decided to try something different and began researching a road improvement called Otta Seal. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otta_seal
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/materials/bituminousdocs/Pavement%20Maintenance/OttaSeal_4-pagerMRR_2008.pdf) Otta Seal is rather expensive, but would improve the roads in a more permanent manner.

To pay for the road improvements (such as gravel and alignment), no dust abatement has been applied since 2019. We have saved as much of our yearly assessments as possible and have looked into getting a loan for the improvements, Otta Seal or some other more permanent solution.

If you would like to comment on this process or ask a question, please attend a membership meeting. Our meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month.

You may also leave a message on our “Contact Us” page of this website, email us at SpecialRD8@gmail.com or send a letter to P.O. Box 646, La Pine, OR 97739.