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Community Update on the Pending Gravel Mine Application | September 14, 2026

Current Status of the Application

The gravel mine application submitted by Levy/Burroughs Materials Corporation remains paused before the Planning Commission while the applicant completes and submits the required documents and information.

The Planning Commission will not complete the public hearing or make a recommendation until the necessary information has been submitted and the required professional and technical reviews have been completed. The pause does not represent inactivity. It is an important safeguard that prevents the application from advancing before the Township has the information needed to conduct a thorough review.

Review Process and Anticipated Timing

After the revised materials are submitted, Township planner and mining application project manager Megan Masson-Minock will coordinate their review with special township counsel Gerald Fisher and the Township's environmental and technical consultants. Together, they will evaluate whether the submission satisfies the Township's requirements and whether additional information, studies, testing, or analysis must be provided.

The application will not advance merely because time has passed. It will proceed only after the required materials have been submitted and the Township's professionals have had an adequate opportunity to complete their review.

Once the necessary information and professional evaluations are available, the application will return to the Planning Commission for continued review, completion of the public hearing, consideration of the full record, and development of a recommendation to the Township Board.

Based on the application's current status, this process is expected to take several additional months. The timing will depend on when the applicant submits the outstanding materials, whether additional information is required, and the time necessary for professional review. Megan Masson-Minock remains in communication with Levy regarding its anticipated submissions; however, no definitive timetable has been provided.

Public Notice, Access, and Participation

Residents will continue to receive legally required public notice and will have additional opportunities to review relevant materials and provide input as the application proceeds. When future meeting or hearing dates are established, notice will be provided through the Township's established public-notice procedures. Relevant materials will be made available through the Township's normal public-access channels, including the Township website when appropriate.

The Township's escrow agreement requires that certain expert findings first be provided to Levy/Burroughs Materials Corporation before their public release. Compliance with that requirement does not eliminate public access or participation. Following the required review and release procedure protects the integrity of the process while allowing information to be made available in accordance with the Township's legal obligations.

The Township recognizes the concerns residents have raised regarding traffic, road conditions, drainage, noise, dust, public safety, environmental effects, property values, and quality of life. These concerns are important and warrant careful evaluation through a transparent, fact-based, and legally sound review.

Coordinated Township Review

The Township has established a coordinated and layered review process to ensure that the application receives appropriate legal, planning, environmental, and technical evaluation.

Special township counsel Gerald Fisher is advising the Township regarding the applicable laws, ordinances, procedural requirements, and legal standards. Township planner and mining application project manager Megan Masson-Minock is

coordinating the application and professional review process. Ramboll and the Township's other expert consultants will evaluate the submitted technical information and identify deficiencies, unanswered questions, potential impacts, and safeguards that may require consideration.

The Township has also established an additional level of technical review through Brian O'Mara. His role is to evaluate Ramboll's initial assessment and provide the Township with an additional professional review of its findings. This added review is intended to provide further scrutiny and quality control before the application proceeds through the decision-making process.

The Planning Commission will review the complete record, conduct and complete the public hearing, and develop a recommendation. The Township Board will then review the record and the Planning Commission's recommendation before making the final decision.

This structure ensures that no single individual controls the process. Each issue will be considered by the professional, consultant, appointed body, or elected body responsible for addressing it.

Mining Control Ordinance Review

The Township is also reviewing proposed amendments to its Mining Control Ordinance to strengthen the regulation, oversight, and monitoring of mining operations.

The Township has received public input on an initial draft and will consider potential revisions before the proposed amendments return to the Township Board for further review. Whether any amendment applies to an existing or future mining operation will depend on the final language adopted, its effective date, applicable law, and any legally recognized vested rights.

The ordinance-review process is separate from the Township's obligation to evaluate the pending application under the "no very serious consequences" standards applicable under MCL 125.3205.

Decision-Making and Legal Responsibilities

The Township must review the application in accordance with its ordinances and Michigan law. Any final decision must be based on competent information contained in the complete record, including professional findings, relevant public comments, the Township's ordinances, and the applicable legal standards. No single Township official has unilateral authority to approve or deny the application. Township legal counsel has advised that acting before the record is complete could undermine the integrity of the review and expose the Township's decision to legal challenge. Following the law does not favor the applicant. It preserves the rights of all parties, protects the community, and strengthens the Township's ability to make and defend a well-supported decision.

Commitment to the Community

Protecting the community is a shared commitment of special township counsel Gerald Fisher, Township planner and mining application project manager Megan Masson-Minock, the Township's expert consultants, the Planning Commission, and the Township Board.

Working within our respective roles, we will listen to residents, ask necessary questions, carefully evaluate the information presented, and ensure that material issues identified through the review are documented, evaluated, and addressed in the record before final action is taken.

The Planning Commission will develop its recommendation from the complete record, and the Township Board will make the final decision based on that record and the applicable law. This coordinated process reflects the Township's commitment to a thorough, transparent, and legally defensible review that protects both the community and the integrity of the final decision.