

PRESS RELEASE

Since the inception of the Slater Special Road District in the 1930's, they and the City of Slater have helped one another. In 1959 the Slater Special Road District approached the city council and asked for their support of an additional, voluntary tax on the assessed evaluation with the understanding that the City of Slater in return would receive 1/5, or 20% of the total back for the Slater streets. For the last 61 years this has been the understanding.

In 2021, the Slater Special Road District board decided that they no longer wanted to reimburse the city its 20%. This unannounced decision cost the citizens of Slater approximately \$40,000 in 2021. With that being said, with an assessed evaluation of \$19,205,104, the taxpayers of Slater City limits will give the Slater Special Road District approximately \$109,293 for rural roads in 2021, with no money coming back for our streets.

At this time, we would like to ask the taxpayers of Slater to vote NO on the VT Slater-SRI question in April 2022. With the reassessments the Slater Special Road District needs to stand on its own two feet and let the taxpayers of Slater all save on their taxes in 2022 and so forth! Let's save over \$60,000 in 2022 taxes!

Citizens of Slater, do you realize you are paying over \$109,293 to the Slater Special Road District versus \$30,543 to the Slater Park system or \$38,175 to the Slater Library, or \$68,718 together? You only pay \$123,270 to the general fund that funds our streets, fire, emergency management, court, administration, law enforcement, and legislation.

Do the taxpayers of Slater realize that over the course of this renewal term, you will give the Slater Special Road District over \$550,000 for their roads and none toward Slater's streets?

With a petition of 50 qualified Slater voters, an election can be called to dissolve the current Slater Special Road District and save the Citizens of Slater over \$109,293 per year!

Gene Griffith and I, Mayor Allegri met with the Slater Special Road District on January 11, 2022. Prior to this we were never notified that they were not going to pay their agreed portion. In 1959 the agreement was made on a handshake and agreement with the approval of city council. The citizens of Slater have supported the Slater Special Road District for 61 years and this has worked well. Now they want us to pay them, with nothing in return for the citizens of Slater. I asked the board if a handshake means nothing, and they said not these days. Gene and I offered a 10-year contract with the Slater Special Road District, and they said no, they will not do a contract or handshake, the trust of the citizens of Slater is no good. Then what is?

The citizens of Slater have paid more than their share. We have used the Slater Special Road District money to maintain Front Street for thousands and thousands of dollars over the years. As well as maintaining the entrances to town and the streets their trucks use to bring their goods to market and the infrastructure to support it.

The recent reassessment in taxes will only increase the citizens of Slater's payment to the Slater Special Road District, with no return. Raised taxes will increase rent to renters and senior citizens who have worked hard to pay for their homes may not be able to stay in them. By voting no to the Slater Special Road District Renewal you are doing a small part to helping citizens afford to stay in their homes. After all of these years, why would the Slater Special Road District try to fix what is not broken?