

# Green , Open , Semi - Rural

This is a time of serious belt tightening. Local governments must figure out how to **work together** on such tasks as police protection and fighting high density development. It is outrageous for the chief executive of Dexter to purposefully drop a bomb on the prospects of good relationships between Dexter and Scio during this period when it is imperative that we begin to work together.

There will never be a hostile annexation of the infinitely precious land of Scio township for the purpose of high density development, ever, period.

Scio Township is very fortunate to have signed "peace treaties" with both Ann Arbor on the east and Dexter to the west. These formal agreements between governments are titled "PROMULGATION OF ANNEXATION POLICY". Dexter and Scio signed their agreement on the "ultimate boundary between the Township and Village" (a direct quote) on June 23, 1981, (signed by the chief executives of both entities - Philip Arbour for the village and Robert Tickle for the township.) This agreement designated "the final definition of the ultimate boundary between the township and village" (direct quote).

The agreement was slightly amended during the 1990's. Our Scio supervisor, Bob Tickle said after signing this amendment "That is the last clod of dirt that anyone will ever get from Scio Township". Bob was the greatest leader Scio ever had. When he died I read a eulogy for him. We named our township hall after Bob. Possibly Bob is watching us now, to see if we protect our singularly special communities - or succumb to a short term money lust that would ultimately degrade the whole area.

If Dexter unilaterally tries to smash the "peace treaty" the people and government of Scio township (and of Dexter also) will not be "good Indians" and quit. We will fight for our beautiful township to the end of our personal skills and our resources ~~██████████~~. Me, and probably Jean King, will lie in front of the bulldozers. **We will prevail** - but let's face it - **all this is ridiculous** - we already have an agreement and we are all supposed to be people of integrity. The new Scio Township board recently reaffirmed our commitment to the peace treaty boundaries that were agreed on earlier.

County officials don't want runaway growth in rural areas either, but if any county commissioners go along with this evil scheme, which is based purely on making money at the expense of the Dexter that now exists, they will be recalled.

Since 1988 the Scio township board has been elected using the campaign slogan PRESERVE SCIO. The very last thing that the citizens of Scio and Dexter want are massive high density developments anywhere near them. The space between Dexter and I 94 must remain as it is in the Scio Township Master Plan - as a relatively green and open buffer between the village and the highway. "Harvest Valley" would destroy the uniquely attractive semi-rural village feeling that makes the village so special. If you wish to lose the wonder and charm of the beautiful Dexter community and have it grow to be another Canton Township or Livonia just keep electing people like Jim Seta.

Businesspeople in the traditional Dexter downtown will be starved and marginalized by "Harvest Valley" until they die off.

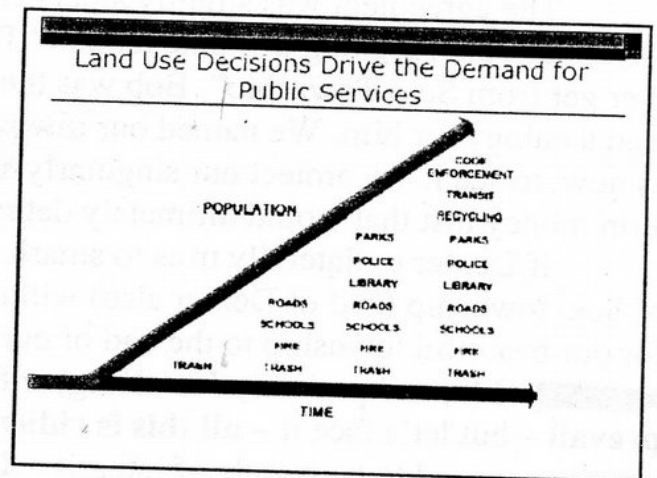
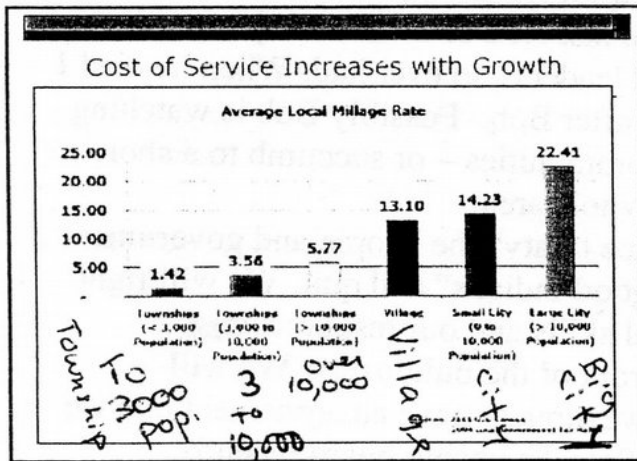
**No Annexation!**  
**No "Harvest Valley"**

So where in the world did this Jim Seta come from? Mr. Seta is a gross anomaly, a throwback to another time or another place when people looked at massive development as a good thing. He is utterly out of step with voter sentiment.

Since 1988 Scio township voters have been voting **overwhelmingly** for anyone who would promise to slow and minimize growth. We worked hard for over a decade to develop the master plan for a beautiful Scio, which Mr. Seta somehow thinks he can demolish at his whim.

Mr. Seta's absurd claim is that a big development (largely residential) would somehow **help** the financial condition of Dexter Village or allow taxes to go **down**. Every planner and government official knows that residential development requires **FAR more** in services than it pays in taxes. **Big development makes taxes go way up.** (If the land was preserved as green space it would require few services)

See tables below, provided by Washtenaw County



There is no doubt that the bigger you get the higher your taxes are.

It is astounding that this meeting can be happening at all, in 2005. In other communities in Washtenaw county, one by one, **people who love the land have taken over** their government. I can't think of another place in this county where the chief executive could become the cheerleader for runaway development – and win the next election. **Green forces** have taken over in Scio, Pittsfield, Ann Arbor, Superior township, Ann Arbor Township, Northfield Township and (I think) Webster township. A Lodi township slate is preparing for 2008.

In this crowd tonight there are smart people who love the distinctive village feeling and semi – rural nature of this beautiful town of Dexter. **MAYBE** there are some of you who would be willing to get together and run for office in Dexter – to oust the politicians willing to sell you down the river for a buck – and adopt policies to ensure that Dexter is still green and open and semi rural 100 years from now.

If we defeat this annexation, and everyone connected with it, we will end this foolish talk of trying to bite off pieces of Scio township to make Dexter a big city. If this somehow goes through, [REDACTED] it will be but the first of many annexations for high density growth, and both Dexter and Scio can kiss our rural character goodbye.

Chuck Ream  
Scio Township Trustee  
9/29/05