

# Monitor Township News



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[www.monitortwp.org](http://www.monitortwp.org)

December 2018



## Report from Township Supervisor, Ken Malkin



It has been a busy time for our township since our last newsletter. The most prominent topic has been on our Wind Energy ordinance. As many of you know, I proposed a moratorium to stop any proposed construction of wind turbines until our 2009 Ordinance is updated. Since that time, our Planning Commission appointed a Citizen Advisory Committee to engage in fact-finding to make a recommendation for an updated Ordinance. Their work has been completed and is posted on our website. I want to thank those residents who volunteered to serve on the Advisory Committee for their hard work. **A public hearing for the entire Zoning Ordinance which includes the updated Wind Energy Ordinance is tentatively scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Please keep checking our website to see if the public hearing date is delayed as the planning commission continues to work on the ordinance. Your attendance would be appreciated.**

The other major project has been the storm water and road improvements in five of our subdivisions. I visited each subdivision once or twice a week to check its progress. I found these visits to the sites quite helpful in monitoring our work. The projects in four of our subdivisions are completed with the exception of some minor follow-up work to be completed in the Spring. I hope the residents are enjoying the improvements. However, the project in one subdivision, where I happen to live, had to be postponed because Consumers Energy had to make changes in the placement of the gas lines before our project could begin. Unfortunately, the work by Consumers Energy was completed too late into the year for the township to begin our project. Next year... I promise!

Overall the local roads in our township have improved substantially since we passed our road

millage. I hope all of our residents are enjoying these improvements.

Our Fire Station Fact-Finding Committee has recommended that the township board hire Sidock Group to conduct a feasibility study to assess the needs of our current facilities. Our Fire Station was built in 1955. The board followed that recommendation and the steps to be taken in that process are posted on our website entitled Roles, Goals, and Controls.

We have also completed improvements to our township park. The parking lot has been expanded, there is new lighting and electrical improvements, and we added new playground equipment, picnic tables, and grills. Please visit our park to see the improvements for yourself.

Since our last newsletter, we have made plans to hire a new firefighter to replace retiring Captain James Meier effective January 1, 2019. Captain Meier has served our township for 34 years and his retirement is well-deserved. We all owe him a great deal for his many years of service to our township. Please welcome his replacement, Brian J. Weaver, to our Fire Department.

Please also welcome our new Administrative Secretary, Diane Peters. Many of you may have already met her or spoken to her over the phone. Our former Administrative Secretary Beth Patterson is being promoted to be our Assistant Assessor effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Finally, our township conducted a mass flow monitoring plan to determine the sources of storm water entering our sanitary sewer system. This has resulted in many residents having sewage back up in their basements. We have been working with the Bay County Department of Water and Sewer to come up with a plan in order to alleviate this problem. The Bay County Department of Water and Sewer and Monitor Township are both conducting feasibility studies to explore solutions.



Ken Malkin, Supervisor

## Report from Clerk, Cindy L. Kowalski

### Interested in Working an Election and Becoming an Election Inspector?

Are you over 16 years of age or a retired resident that has some free time to provide a much needed service to your local community?

Monitor Township is currently taking applications for election inspectors. No prior experience is necessary. All training will be provided. Applications are available at the Township Office. Apply Today!

## Report from the Planning Commission

In order for planning to facilitate the development of solar as a renewable resource, policies and regulations regarding solar and specifications as to where solar-related installations may be built, must be in place. Discussion is anticipated to continue in 2019 to develop a zoning text amendment for this purpose.

## Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike



Tax Collection Hours are Monday through Friday  
**9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
Closed 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm for lunch.

As we enter into a new tax year, here are few reminders for **Winter Tax Season**.

Winter Taxes will be mailed out December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Please be sure to carefully review your bill for any corrections. Taxes are not forwarded in the US mail, so, for you snow birds... please stop in to see the Assessor to have your address changed to your December address, and again when you return to your Summer address. If you do not receive your tax bill by the 10<sup>th</sup>, please call our office to **verify your address** and to have a duplicate sent.

Partial payments are always accepted. Cash, Check and Money Orders are preferred payments. Sorry, but Credit or Debit cards are not accepted. **NOTE: WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS.** Winter tax is due February 14, 2019. Payments must be in the office by the due date to avoid penalty and interest.

Thank you to all of you who used our drop box located in the parking lot for after-hour convenience. We check it twice a day to make sure that your payments are applied promptly. If you are paying by mail, your tax bill includes your receipt. Please tear off at the bottom and mail with your payment. **PLEASE KEEP THE TOP PORTION FOR YOUR RECEIPT.** **NOTE: Additional copies are 35¢ each.** To our residents that requested a stamped paid receipt, be sure to include a stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment. **All checks MUST include your phone number.** We find many errors in checks and by having a phone number to call we can have them corrected before they hit the bank for transposed number errors to avoid an NSF fee, so please include your phone number on all checks. If your taxes are in **ESCROW** we will mail you a copy of your tax for income tax purposes. If you have **DEFERRED YOUR TAXES**, please remember that payment is due by **February 14, 2019.**

As a service to the community, we issue cat and dog licenses for Bay County which are available at the tax window. Remember, you must present your rabies certificate to be issued a license.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!  
**IT IS A PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU!**

**Reminder Offices Closed:** December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup>  
January 1<sup>st</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup>, & May 27<sup>th</sup>



## Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer

Greetings! With the winter season upon us as well as the holidays, we would like to give you some safety tips to keep you safe and secure.

If you changed your clock batteries, did you change the batteries in your CO and smoke alarms? These alarms are an important part of your family's safety in your home. Make sure they have fresh batteries and are working properly!

Did you know clothes dryers accounted for 92% of the home fires from 2010 - 2014? As we layer up for the chillier weather, make sure that you always use a lint filter after each load, and that the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted. Keep your loved ones safe.

Half of house fires begin in the kitchen, and kitchen fires are the leading cause of house-fire injuries and many deaths. Most kitchen fires are due to human error. Preventing kitchen fires and injuries takes one part common sense and a few parts preparation. Take stock of your kitchen's layout, equipment, and cleanliness. What are your cooking habits? Do you have the ability to put out a small fire safely and do you have knowledge of burn-injury prevention? A clean kitchen is a safer kitchen. Wipe up spills as they happen. Clean crumbs and grease buildup from cooking appliances regularly. Clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove on a regular basis. Grease can catch fire easily, and grease fires can be difficult to put out. Keep kitchen messes under control to avoid these risk altogether.

If you are accidentally burned you must act fast to limit the severity of the injury. Run cool water over a minor burn for 10 to 15 minutes to limit its seriousness. Never use grease or butter on a burn. If burned skin is blistered, see a doctor. For blackened skin, shallow breathing, or unconsciousness, call the fire department or ambulance service. Careless cooking starts more residential fires than any other cause. Cooking accidents also hurt people – more are injured in the kitchen than from any other fire-related cause. Brush up on kitchen safety and cook smart. Organize and decorate the kitchen for looks and safety. Everyday objects may end up causing destructive blazes. Do not store anything flammable on the stove. Curtains, potholders, dishtowels, and decorative items need to be at least 3 feet from the stove. Get an ABC fire



extinguisher for the kitchen and learn how to use it. Keep the extinguisher in easy reach near the kitchen's exit – not in a cabinet. Make sure the control knobs on the stove, oven, and other hot appliances are easy to read. You should be able to tell from across the room whether a heat-producing appliance is on or off. Check toasters, coffeemakers, and electric skillets for overheating and wear. Signs of possible damage are cracks, melting, or discoloration of cords or plastic surfaces. Do not overload electrical outlets. It can cause overheating. This is especially true with heat producing appliances like toasters or coffeepots/it is easy to develop bad cooking habits. Don't get burned. Never leave food cooking unattended. Cook with the lowest effective temperature. Do not store cooking fat on the stovetop. A burner could be turned on, accidentally starting a grease fire. Plug in appliances only when they are in use. Keep metal out of the microwave - even a twist-tie or a bit of aluminum foil can cause "arcing," which can lead to fire. Wear close-fitting clothing when you cook. Avoid loose sleeves, ties, or ruffles. Keep pot handles turned toward

the back of the stove. An adult may brush against the handle, or a child may pull the pot off of the stove and be burned. Supervise young children in the kitchen. Do not touch or try to move a flaming pot. You may spread the fire and/or burn yourself. Slowly remove lids from containers that have been in the microwave oven. The steam that builds up inside containers can cause serious scalds.

Never try to put out a fire yourself unless: you have called the fire department, you know what is burning, you have the necessary supplies (pan lid or correct fire extinguisher), the fire is small and not spreading, everyone else has left the area and you have a clear path to the exit. Never use water, baking soda, or flour on a grease fire. Instead, carefully slide a lid over the pan from the side, and turn off the stove. Keep the lid over the fire until flames are out. Smother a fire in a conventional oven or microwave oven by keeping the door closed. Unplug or turn off the unit. Have the microwave serviced before using it again. If paper, cloth, or food (other than grease) is burning, it may be safe to use an A or ABC fire extinguisher, if you know how. A fire extinguisher labeled C, BC, or ABC can be used on an electrical fire. If the fire does not go out right away, exit. If you haven't done so already, call the fire department, using a neighbor's phone.

We hope you have a very safe holiday season. Please stop by and visit us anytime. Our doors are always open. Stay safe!

Chief John R. Kramer




**Report from the Sheriff Department**  
 Deputy Eric Anthony & Mike Stensrud
 

Remember, if you are going out of town for the winter or the holidays stop by the township offices to fill out a **Vacation House Check Form** and have your business or home checked and patrolled periodically when personnel and time are made available.

**Have a Safe Holiday & Drive Safe!**  
**Sheriff Dept. (989) 895-4050.**


**Lead & Copper Sampling Sites Needed**

Bay County Department of Water and Sewer is currently looking for new lead and copper sampling sites. Due to a change in the MDEQ sampling requirements, more sites are now needed than were previously required. The ideal location would have a lead water service line, or a copper interior plumbing that was installed in the 1970's or 1980's. If you believe your residence may meet either of these criteria, or if you are just interested in the possibility of free annual lead/copper testing, please contact our office at (989) 684-3883.

Even if you are unsure of the plumbing at your residence, and would like us to come perform a free survey of the residence, please contact us and we would be happy to schedule an appointment. If lead/copper levels are found to be above the EPA action level, there is no obligation to customers to make internal plumbing changes to their homes.

However, we can help by making recommendations that will help reduce those levels, to ensure a safe water supply.

**2019 Trash/Recycling Rates & Pickup Reminders**

In order to keep the edges of the new roads from breaking up and the curbs in subdivisions from being disturbed, the Bay County Road Commission has asked that you **please put your trash carts, yard waste, and recycle containers in front of the curb on the asphalt in subdivisions. On the local roads, put the containers at least halfway onto the asphalt.**



Rates for our monthly trash, recycling and yard waste increased this year. The Township Board requested bids from multiple vendors but only received one bid as the others declined to participate. This increase is not unique to our Township. There is currently a nationwide problem with disposing of recyclable material which subsequently caused the most significant increase in cost for waste services.

**Waste Management's number is (800)-796-9696**  
**Yard Waste Begins: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**


**Monitor Township Park**


The park has closed for the season but residents are still encouraged to walk their dogs year round. Remember to be a responsible owner and **PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET** in order to keep our park clean for everyone. Park Opens May 1<sup>st</sup> 2019

**Pavilion Reservations Begin: January 2, 2019**

**Township Hours & Building Department Info**

Office Hours:	9 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm
Tax Collection Hours:	9 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm
Assessor* Tod Fackler:	8 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm Wednesday & Thursday
Building Department	8 am -12 pm X 206
Carol Goodwin.....	Bldg. & Zoning Admin. Assistant
Dave DeGrow.....	Building Inspector-In the Field
David Rochow.....	Zoning Enforcement- In the Field
Electrical Inspector	
Frank Bryden.....	(989) 894-5053.....Direct
Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector	
Dell Bedford.....	(989) 272-5108.....Direct

**Bay County Recreation Plan**

Community officials from across Bay County have joined together in an effort to develop a Parks and Recreation Plan aimed at improving and developing recreational resources in Bay County. The plan will require additional study or involvement of residents in order to address the site-specific details. The entire draft plan can be found on our website at [www.monitorwp.org](http://www.monitorwp.org)

# Happy Holidays

## Report from your Township Assessor, Tod Fackler



Please be on the lookout for your 2019 assessment notice which you should receive by the end of February.

The notice will list your 2019 assessed and taxable values as well as the classification of your property. Your current year Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) is also indicated on the assessment notice. If you feel the indicated percentage for Homeowner's Principal Residence is incorrect, please notify the Assessing Department. The dates and times of the 2019 March Board of Review will be listed on the notice. Please note, for residential property, you must appeal to the March Board of Review in order to further appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Appeal forms are on our website under the Assessor Department "**Quick Links**" section and are labeled "**Petition to the Board of Review.**" Board of Review appointments will be scheduled in person or over the phone if it is an issue that cannot be corrected with the Assessing Department.

If you have any questions regarding your principal residence exemption, assessed or taxable values, please feel free to contact the Assessor's Office at (989) 684-7203 or via email at: [assessor@monitortwp.org](mailto:assessor@monitortwp.org)



## January – June 2019 Meeting Dates



### Township Board

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month unless otherwise noted.  
 January 14<sup>th</sup>      February 25<sup>th</sup>      March 25<sup>th</sup>  
 April 22<sup>nd</sup>      May 13<sup>th</sup>      June 24<sup>th</sup>

### Planning Commission

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted.  
 January 8<sup>th</sup>      February 5<sup>th</sup>      March 5<sup>th</sup>  
 April 2<sup>nd</sup>      May 7<sup>th</sup>      June 4<sup>th</sup>

### Zoning Board of Appeals

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month only as needed.  
 January 17<sup>th</sup>      February 21<sup>st</sup>      March 21<sup>st</sup>  
 April 18<sup>th</sup>      May 16<sup>th</sup>      June 20<sup>th</sup>

## Township Elected Officials & Administrative Staff

Supervisor	Ken Malkin	<a href="mailto:supervisor@monitortwp.org">supervisor@monitortwp.org</a>
Clerk	Cindy Kowalski	<a href="mailto:clerk@monitortwp.org">clerk@monitortwp.org</a>
Treasurer	Sue Pike	<a href="mailto:treasurer@monitortwp.org">treasurer@monitortwp.org</a>
Assessor	Tod Fackler	<a href="mailto:assessor@monitortwp.org">assessor@monitortwp.org</a>
Asst. Assessor		Beth L. Patterson
Deputy Supervisor		Beth L. Patterson
Deputy Clerk		Linda Ferguson
Deputy Treasurer		Josie Hill
Admin. Sec.	Diane Peters	<a href="mailto:office@monitortwp.org">office@monitortwp.org</a>
Building Asst.	Carol Goodwin	<a href="mailto:building@monitortwp.org">building@monitortwp.org</a>

Trustee: Gary A. Brandt	Trustee: Elaine Kochany
Trustee: Bill Reder	Trustee: Bob Walsh