

Monitor Township News



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www.monitortwp.org

 June
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Report from Township Supervisor, Ken Malkin



Our Zoning Ordinance has finally been completely updated after four years of work and a multitude of meetings and hours spent by our Planning Commission reviewing each section. It took effect on April 29, 2019. The new Ordinance does include an updated Wind Energy section with better provisions designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our residents.

We are taking another look at two sections (Solar and Accessory Buildings) of the new ordinance based on the input of our residents. The Planning Commission voted to form a citizen Solar Advisory Committee to strengthen that part of our Zoning Ordinance. That committee is primarily focusing on the bigger commercial solar farms in an effort to preserve our township's prime farm land. Please check our website for periodic updates. The Township Board also voted to ask the Planning Commission to take a second look at the regulations regarding accessory buildings throughout the township.

We are nearing the end of a multi-year process to improve our local roads. This year we are paving Four Mile Road from Midland Road to Wilder Road, Baxman Road from Midland south to the end, North Union from Four Mile Road to Mackinaw Road. We are also finishing Sharon Park, the last subdivision that requested storm water improvements as part of their road project. This project was to be completed last year; however, the Consumers Energy gas lines needed to be moved first and that was not completed until October of last year. Now that we are nearing the end of our road projects, residents need to read that part of our newsletter that instructs you on placement of your trash

barrels. Too many residents continue to place them too far off the road causing the trucks to drive near the edge of the road causing damage to our brand new roads.

The Township Board is now in the process of addressing the need to update our Fire Station. Additional information can be found by reading Chief Kramer's report on the next page.

Industrial and commercial owners should also be aware that there is a new Zoning Compliance permit that is required anytime there is a change of ownership, change of use, or change of occupancy. It also applies for any type of modification, repair, or construction that occurs at your place of business. The purpose is to make sure that all of our zoning regulations and fire codes are met in addition to the usual building permit requirements.

ALPINE VILLAGE RESIDENTS

Most of the residents may know that your mobile home park has gone into receivership which means that your park is being managed by a court officer. I called a few weeks ago to let them know about the serious issue with your front entrance. Bids were sought for the repair of the entrance and it is my hope that you will see an improved entryway by the time you read this newsletter.

Ken Malkin, Supervisor

Report from Clerk, Cindy L. Kowalski

Election Inspectors Needed For 2020 Election Cycle



Interested in Working an Election and Becoming an Election Inspector?

Are you retired or over 16 years of age and would like to provide a service to your local community? Monitor Township is currently taking applications for election inspectors. No prior experience is necessary. All training will be provided and training sessions will be conducted in 2020. Applications are available Monday through Friday during regular business hours. **Involve yourself in the election process and apply today!**

Upcoming 2020 Election Dates

March 10, 2020	Presidential Primary
August 4, 2020	Primary Election
November 3, 2020	General Election

Sanitary Sewer Project Update

Within the last few years, Monitor Township took advantage of a grant to evaluate the condition of our Sanitary Sewer System. Based on the information gathered during the course of that grant, we are in the process of making structural repairs to our aging Sanitary Sewer System. Some of the more urgent repairs are being made this summer. We are also in the process of developing a long term plan for the balance of the structural repairs that are needed for our Sanitary Sewer System.

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.



Summer Taxes will be mailed out June 27th. Please be sure to review carefully for accuracy. Note: USPS will not forward your tax bill, so for you snow birds please stop in to see the assessor to have your address changed. If you have not received your tax bill by July 10th, please call our office to find out to whom and where they were mailed out to. Please be aware that Michigan law states that a property owner is responsible for property taxes (including late charges that may accrue) - regardless of whether or not a bill was received. You should expect to receive a tax bill on the 1st of July and on the 1st of December of each year. If you do not receive a tax bill, please call our office to verify your address and to request a duplicate.

A note to all - we have spoken with the US Postal Carrier and the mail now goes to Detroit and back to Bay City for delivery. Turn around is now 2-5 days. It is longer for out-of-state so please keep this in mind for those of you who make payments close to the last day to avoid late charges. Important: **WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS.** Your payment must be in our office by the due date.

I would like to share some additional information with you for the upcoming 2019 Summer Tax Season. The summer tax bill will include the: State Education Tax, County Operating Tax and Bay City Public School Tax. Summer millage total is 32.7157. If you are 100% Homestead, your summer millage total will be 14.7157

Your tax bill includes your **receipt**. Please tear off at the bottom and mail with your payment and keep the top portion for your receipt. **Additional copies are .35¢ each.**

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 were applied promptly. To our residents that requested a paid receipt by mail, thank you for including your stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment.

If you have deferred your taxes, please remember that payment is due by February 14, 2020. As a courtesy, we have mailed all those who were deferred in the prior year a new application to fill out. **NOTE: A new form must be filled out each and every calendar year.** If you think you may qualify to defer your summer taxes, you may pick up an application at our office or print one at <http://www.michigan.gov/treasury> TYPE "471" into the search bar. Applications will be accepted from July 1 through September 16, 2019.



 As always **Cat and Dog Licenses** will be available at the tax window. Please remember we must have your rabies certificate to issue your pet a license.

Treasurer's Office Closed: July 4th & Sept 2nd
Wishing You All a Safe and Happy Summer!



Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer

Greetings from Chief Kramer and your Fire Department

It has been a very busy and active year already for the fire department. We have averaged three calls a day minimum with some days as high as six to eight. These include medicals, fires, citizen's assists, etc. We are a (24) hour operation and experienced 1,293 runs last year. We are almost at 375 runs so far this year and it is not slowing down.

Please welcome our newest full-time staff member Sgt. BJ Weaver. BJ started on the department on January 1st of this year. He has been a first-class addition to our staff.

One of my responsibilities as your fire chief is to set a five-year plan for what we feel is required to keep your fire department a functional one with staffing and the logistics of the station. One topic that has been discussed for several years is the replacement or restructuring of the fire station. I would like to try and explain our reasons and goals for your fire station.

This building was built in 1954. It has been added on at least two times as we grew and our customer base began to grow. A numbers study shows we are in the best location per call ratio. This is not the first time a new building proposal has been presented to the Board of Trustees. To be a functional fire department our services and infrastructure must change and be updated based on population growth in the area. With new fire trucks and updated equipment we are mandated to carry and wear, we are outgrowing our current facility. The time has come. I have approached the Board to request that we consider a new station.

With the help of the Board we established a fact finding committee to compare the options that we have and to decide what would be the best outcome for the township. I realize that the ultimate decision is up to our community. You are our customers and we need to present to you a positive and productive plan that will help you make that decision. Our committee has put in almost two years of study and research. Sidock Group was hired to complete a feasibility study to determine the most cost-effective options. The property adjacent to the west of the station has been acquired which gives us more options for expansion. Sidock's report indicated that although our foundation is in fairly good shape, we have out-grown the facility and additional minor remodeling would be a wasteful expenditure.

Two recommendations and options were presented by the Sidock Group. Remodel and expand

the current location or build a new station on an alternate site. This information can be found on the www.monitortwp.org website. After careful consideration of both options the Fire Station Fact-Finding Committee supported the renovation and addition proposal as the most cost-effective and forwarded this to the current Board of Trustees of the township. The Board now must decide what direction to take and to ultimately allow the community to make the final decision. We ask that you seek out answers to your questions here at the fire department to obtain accurate information. Please understand there has been a lot of misinformation circulating over social media and it is creating a huge deception to this project and a lot of it is simply not true. There is still a lot of work to be done. We want to do what is right and efficient for the township.

We appreciate the years of support and commitment for our community and as always will strive to continue serving you with professionalism, care, and compassion.

Burn Permits. Remember, you must obtain a permit before burning brush. They are free and can be obtained at the fire department. You must in person to obtain one – no phone calls please. Please refer to Ordinance #60 that describes in detail what can and cannot be burned and when it can be done. Remember we cannot issue a burn permit during a burn ban. Our radar station is in Linwood and is conveniently updated every ten minutes. Before you come to the station to apply for a burn permit please refer to the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/> If the County of Bay is Orange then we are able to issue permits, if it is Brown then we cannot issue permits as there is a ban. Farmers are exempt from this unless the Governor issues a ban then no burning is allowed at all. Please be aware that burning of your ditches is NOT considered an AG burn and you must obtain a permit. It is important to remember that under a DNR burn ban you may still have a small camp fire in your yard as long as you are sitting around it and maintaining it. **Note:** Burning brush in a burn pit does not qualify as a camp fire. As always, the fire chief does have the authority to cease any burning in the township if it is declared that the conditions are too dangerous to burn. As always we welcome you to visit the station anytime and bring the kids in to see the trucks. Please have a safe and enjoyable summer and always practice fire prevention.



Chief John R. Kramer

Monitor Township Park is located at 4585 3 Mile Road between Midland and Union and is open from 8 a.m. until sunset through September 30. Please visit the park and enjoy the many new improvements that we made from our most recent park grant. Some of the improvements include new lighting, new playground equipment, an expanded parking lot, and storm water improvements. We also hired Mike Kaunitz as our new Park Custodian.



**Report from the Sheriff Department
Deputy Eric Anthony & Trevor Pichiotino**



Child safety seat inspections are available at the Bay County Sheriff's Office by appointment only. Technicians are typically on duty during the morning shift (6:00 am to 6:00 pm). Inspections are available during those general times, subject to the availability of the technician. (Inspections typically take at least one-half hour to complete.) Inspections may be scheduled by contacting the Road Patrol Shift Commander of the shift on which you would like your inspection to be performed. Shift commanders may be reached at (989) 895-4050. Inspections are performed free of charge as a service of the Bay County Sheriff's Office. Our very own Deputy Trevor Pichiotino is the current child safety seat inspector for the Bay County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Pichiotino can be reached at 1-(989)-895-4299 Ext: 8290 or by email PichiotinoT@baycounty.net

Trash 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.**

Waste Management **RECOMMENDS** that all garbage, recycling and yard waste be taken out the evening before or by 6:30 a.m. on the morning of your trash pickup. Waste Management: **(800) 796-9696**

Important Recycling Reminders



Too often our residents are placing items in the recycle bin that can contaminate other items causing more harm than good. For recycling **"Do's and Don'ts"** please refer to www.rorr.com

Report from your Township Assessor, Tod Fackler



Property Values Climb Across the State

Since 2014, overall assessed (market) values changed 5.3% in Monitor Township compared to a 0.2% change in taxable value. Compared to 2008, property values have changed 7% and taxable value 3.2%. *Source: Bridge Magazine May 10, 2018 – Mike Wilkinson*

2014-17	Assessed	Change	Taxable	Change
Resid.	\$274,722,500	7.80%	\$249,587,910	1.70%
Comm.	\$49,207,700	-8.60%	\$45,314,422	-10.10%
Indus.	\$17,032,900	4.90%	\$16,187,645	7.30%
Agri.	\$53,047,500	7.60%	\$27,667,904	1.80%
Total	\$394,010,600	5.30%	\$338,757,881	0.20%

Holidays Observed and Township Offices Closed
July 4th, Sept 2nd, Oct. 14th, Nov 11th, 28th and 29th

June – December 2019 Meeting Dates

Township Board		One Meeting Per Month
June 24 th		July 22 nd
August 26 th		September 23 rd
October 28 th		November 25 th
December 9 th		
Planning Commission		1 st Tuesday of each month *
June 4 th		July 9th*
August 6 th *		September 10th*
October 2 nd		November 5 th
December 3 rd		
*Meetings Scheduled (1) Week Later Due to Holiday or Elections		
Zoning Board of Appeals		3 rd Thursday of each month*
June 20 th		July 18 th
August 15 th		September 19 th
October 17 th		November 21 st
December 19 th		*ONLY AS NEEDED



CENSUS: The coming year will be an important year as information is gathered from our residents for the upcoming census. We encourage our township residents to cooperate with these efforts so that our township can have an accurate count.

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
Assessing Dept.	9 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm
Building Department	8 am -12 pm (Monday-Friday)
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

Township Elected Officials & Administrative Staff

Supervisor	Ken Malkin	supervisor@monitortwp.org
Clerk	Cindy Kowalski	clerk@monitortwp.org
Treasurer	Sue Pike	treasurer@monitortwp.org
Assessor	Tod Fackler	assessor@monitortwp.org
Asst. Assessor	Beth Patterson	asstassessor@monitortwp.org
& Deputy Supervisor		Linda Ferguson
Deputy Clerk		Josie Hill
Deputy Treasurer		office@monitortwp.org
Admin. Secretary	Diane Peters	building@monitortwp.org
Building Assistant	Carol Goodwin	
Trustee:	Gary A. Brandt	Trustee: Elaine Kochany
Trustee:	Bill Reder	Trustee Bob Walsh