

Monitor Township News

2483 E. Midland Road Bay City MI 48706

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December 2019



Report from Township Supervisor, Ken Malkin

It has been another busy few months since our last newsletter. I was able to get those in charge of Alpine Village to improve the entrance. Sharon Park is finally completed. We also completed other road projects. We paved Baxman Road from Midland Road south to US10, Four Mile from Midland Road to Wilder Road and North Union Road from Four Mile Road to Mackinaw Road. Chip and Seal was put on N. Union from Fraser to Seven Mile.

We had the road commission grade and put gravel down the south side of the parking lot in the Monitor Township Park. We thank the road commission for the nice job they did. A federal grant was used to have new trees and bushes installed at Steih Park which is on Monitor Road in the Kawkawlin Village. We are also applying for grants to further improve Steih Park for those who use it to fish and kayak. At this stage, we have received \$75k from the Bay Area Community Foundation and over \$9k from the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments, \$25K from Enbridge and we are also applying for more grants from the Watershed Initiative Network, the Bay Area Community Foundation and the State of Michigan.

You may have noticed some crews working on Euclid, Salzburg and Two-Mile Road. We are in the process of doing some improvements on our sanitary sewer lines. I hope this is the beginning of a township wide program for needed repairs.

I had the opportunity to visit many residents at their homes about their new roads and our new Wind Energy Ordinance. Overall, the reaction to both was quite positive. Although I did find that some residents were not aware of the changes to our ordinance. If you still have questions feel free to contact me, or visit our website www.monitortwp.org.

On a final note, I was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Township Supervisors. Our previous Supervisor, Gary Brandt is a Past President of the Association. I hope to gain additional knowledge that will benefit our township. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Ken Malkin, Supervisor

Report from Clerk, Cindy L. Kowalski

2020 will be a very busy year for all of us! There are not 3 but 4 elections in 2020!

Here are the important dates to remember:

Last Day to Register Other Than In-Person at the Clerk's Office

February 24, 2020 – Presidential Primary Election

April 20, 2020 – Special Bay City School's Bond Proposal

July 20, 2020 – August Primary Election

October 19, 2020 – November General Election

Under the new law, voters may also register In-Person within 14 days of an election, up to and including Election Day. A voter registering in the final 14 days, including Election Day, will need to show proof of residency in addition to proof of identity (or an ID that proves both).

2020 Election Dates

March 10, 2020 – Presidential Primary

May 5, 2020 - Special Bay City Public Schools Bond Proposal Election

August 4, 2020 – Primary Election

November 3, 2020 – General Election

Wish to skip the line at the polls? Under the new law, no reason is required to vote absentee.

You can receive an application for an absentee ballot by contacting the Clerk's office (to receive your application by mail), in person during regular office hours, or can be found on-line by clicking on the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) under the Elections tab at Michigan.gov/sos website. You can also find on the MVIC webpage if you are registered to vote, your polling location, view a sample ballot or track your absentee ballot.

Before returning your application, please sign at the red X on the application. Please also include your phone number on the application. This is very helpful to us if there are issues with mail delivery.

Please designate, in the space provided on the application, your alternate mailing address if it is different from the address shown on your driver's license. Please remember – Ballots can only be mailed to the address on the application and cannot be forwarded by postal mail.



Report from Clerk, Cindy L. Kowalski con't

As required by the passage of Proposal 3, the Clerk's office will be open for 8 hours on the Saturday and/or Sunday prior to each election to issue and receive ballots. Specific dates and times for each election will be posted at the township office. Another change voters will see due to the passage of Proposal 3 is the use of the e-pollbook laptops at the poll's election day. The township received the laptops in 2019 from the Bureau of Elections and were paid for by HAVA grant funding

Reminder note from the Bureau of Elections Regarding the Presidential Primary Election.

The 2020 Presidential Primary is designated a "closed primary," just as it was in 2016. Michigan Election Law, requires voters wishing to participate in the March 10 Election to choose a Democratic or Republican ballot when voting absentee or at the polls on Election Day. While a voter must select a specific party ballot, there is no political party registration in Michigan's voter registration system. However, a voter's ballot selection will be public information for the 22 months following the election.

Election Inspectors Are Needed!

Are you retired, or over 16 years of age, or 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. The County Clerk will provide training on Thursday Feb. 6, 2020 for new inspectors willing to work the Presidential Primary or Special May School bond election. Other training sessions will be conducted in June 2020. Election Inspector Applications are available Monday – Friday during regular business hours. **Involve yourself in the election process and apply today!**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! *Cindy Kowalski, Clerk*

Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike

As we enter a New Year, here are a few reminders for Winter Tax Season.

Winter taxes will be mailed out December 1st. Be sure to review carefully for any corrections. Taxes are not forwarded in the US Mail, so for you snowbirds, 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 10th, please call our office to verify your address and to have a duplicate sent.

Partial payments are accepted here at the Township. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS.** Winter Tax is due February 14, 2020. Payments must be in office by 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 paying by mail, your tax bill includes your receipt. Please tear off at the bottom and mail with your payment. Keep the top portion for your receipt. Additional **copies are .35 each**. To our residents that requested a stamped paid receipt, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment. **All checks MUST include your phone number.** We find many error 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, please include your phone number on all checks.

If your taxes are in **Escrow**, we mail you a copy of your tax for income tax purposes. Those who have **Deferred their taxes**, please remember that payment is due by February 14, 2020.

As a service to the community we issue cat and dog licenses for the county and will be available at the tax window. Please have your rabies certificate present to issue your pet a license.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It is a pleasure to serve you.

Sue Pike, Treasurer

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer

Greetings from your Fire Department. We have had a lot of things going on. First and foremost, our runs have reached 1050 (January-November 2019) We have been very busy with our runs, hydrant maintenance, education programs, safety programs and department duties. We had a successful Open House in October. Over 100 people visited with us and our vendors. We gave away 40 plus bike helmets and we appreciate the parents who brought their children to get fitted. We presented our fire safety program to all of our schools in the township during October (Fire Prevention Week) Halloween eve and night went without a problem and even though it was cold and raining, the kids still had fun.

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer con't

We want to make sure you check your smoke detectors and change the batteries and have two ways out of your home in the event of a fire. We also are now asking that you sleep with your bedroom door closed. Studies have shown that with the door closed, it slows the fire and smoke from getting into the room and give you more time to survive. Please keep the door shut for you and the safety of your family.

As you are aware, we have been working on researching a new fire building. The building we are currently in was built in 1952 and we have outgrown it. After the feasibility study was completed, research showed we should stay right where we are at. We have met with several architects and contractors to look at the next step for a design and building plans. This next step in the process will give us an opportunity to see the hard numbers and better prepare us to present this to you, our community for review and questions. We have been working on this for a couple years now and we want to make sure we are doing this right and for the most efficient cost. We also need to make sure our fire station is current and a functioning station and will serve this community for the next 50 to 75 years. I would encourage you to ask questions and stop by and see firsthand the condition of the current building and why we need to expand. We are always open for suggestions and would love to hear from you.

We wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season. Fire safety is always at the top of our list with your life being the number one priority! *Chief John R. Kramer*

Monitor Township Park

The park has closed for the season but residents are still encouraged to walk their dogs year-round. Please pick up after your pet in order to keep our park clean for everyone. Park Opens May 1, 2020. Pavilion Reservations Begin: January 2, 2020.

2020 Trash/Recycling 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.**

Yard Waste Begins: April 1, 2020

| 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 Facker | assessor@monitortwp.org |
| Asst. Assessor | Beth L. Patterson | |
| Deputy Clerk | Linda Ferguson | |
| Deputy Treasurer | Josie Hill | |
| Admin Sec. | Diane Peters | office@monitortwp.org |
| Building Asst. | Carol Goodwin | building@monitortwp.org |
| Trustee: Gary A Brandt | | Trustee: Elaine Kochany |
| Trustee: Bill Reder | | Trustee: Bob Walsh |

| January---June 2020 Meeting Dates | |
|--|--------------------|
| Township Board | |
| January 27 | February 10 |
| March 23 | April 27 |
| May 11 | June 22 |
| Planning Commission | |
| January 7 | February 4 |
| March 3 | April 7 |
| May 11 | June 2 |
| Zoning Board of Appeals | |
| January 16 | February 20 |
| March 19 | April 16 |
| May 14 | June 18 |

Report from the Sheriff Department

Remember, if you are going out of town for the winter or the holidays stop by the township office 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 and Drive Safe!

Sheriff Dept. (989) 895-4050

| Township Hours & Building Department Info | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Office Hours | 9am-12pm & 1 pm-5pm |
| Tax Collection Hours | 9am-12pm & 1 pm-4pm |
| Assessor* Tod Fackler | 8am-12pm & 1 pm-5pm |
| Building Department | 8am-12pm & 1 pm-5pm |
| Dave DeGrow | Building Inspector |
| David Rochow | Zoning Enforcement |
| Electrical Inspector | Frank Bryden |
| Plumbing & Mech Inspector | Dell Bedford |

**Charter Township of
Monitor**

2483 E. Midland Road
Bay City MI 48706-9469

Happy Holidays

We're on the Web!
www.monitortwp.org

Report From your Township Assistant Assessor, Beth L. Patterson



Did you know that you're 475 times more likely to survive a plane crash than you are to fully understand the tax assessment process? Now that I have your attention, I would like to introduce myself. Many of you I have had the pleasure of getting to know as I have worked at Monitor Township for a period of a little over three years. In January of this year I was given the opportunity to work full-time in the Assessing Department as the Assistant to our Assessor Tod Fackler, which I have found to be a very rewarding learning experience. Most importantly, residents can now obtain immediate assistance from this department **Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.**

As a reminder, township property values and descriptions can be now found online 24/7. Look for the link on our website listed under the **Assessor's** page. In other exciting news, the inflation rate multiplier for tax the year 2020 has been established and we are happy to report that the inflation rate for taxation has decreased from 2.4% to 1.9%.

In closing, please be on the lookout for your 2020 assessment notice which you should receive by the end of February. The notice will list your 2020 assessed and taxable values as well as the classification of your property. If you feel the indicated percentage for Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) or the classification of your home is incorrect, please notify the Assessing Department.

Reminder Offices Closed:

December 24th, 25th & 31st,
January 1 & 20th February
17th, April 10th & May 25th

Zoning Compliance Permit

Our township revised our entire Zoning Ordinance which took effect on April 29, 2019. The new ordinance requires that if there is a change in occupancy, use or ownership of a business, that you obtain a Zoning Compliance Permit from the township. This is to make sure that the new business complies with our Zoning Ordinance and any building code or fire safety regulations.