

Monitor Township News



2483 E. Midland Road Bay City MI 48706
Phone: (989) 684-7203 Fax: (989) 684-9234

December 2020



Report from Township Supervisor, Terry M. Spencer

Greetings and happy holidays from your new Monitor Township Supervisor! It is an honor to be in this position and I wanted to let everyone know my door is open to all citizens, please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns. My main goal as your supervisor is to continue to move our township forward and improve our quality of life!

There are many new and exciting projects coming to Monitor Township but before I begin, I would like to say thank you to the welcoming staff at our township hall. We are fortunate to have such hard working and dedicated staff to serve the needs of our township.

Updates continue for our webpage. We are hoping to have it finalized and active after the New Year. The same information that was on the current Webpage will be available, however it will be more user-friendly, have easier accessible data, and more interactive to the public. It will be a continuous project in the hopes to get more information out to our citizens. Our goal is to be more transparent with the community so we also have activated our Facebook page, Monitor Charter Township. As we move forward, we will update these pages frequently with current Township news, events, and items of interest. Please visit our online information.

We are discontinuing the current form of Township wide newsletter and will be utilizing more information through our webpage and social media. For anyone without internet access, call the township hall to remain on the mailing list. We are currently working on sending information in the newsletter out with the taxes as a cost savings effort to those who request it. If you do not have accessibility to a computer, you will still get the information.

Our Monitor Township 1st annual holiday lights contest was very successful. Please take the opportunity to drive around the Township at night, some of the light displays are amazing! We would like to say thank you to the sponsors of the contest, Begick Nursery & Garden Center, O's Pub & Grill, and B's Boutique. Please remember to support your local businesses.

The township hall now has a new phone line to talk directly with our contracted police for a non-emergency situation or general law-enforcement related questions/request for service. As of today, we have two contracted Bay County sheriff's department officers. They are solely our townships police, so if you have a question, please feel free to contact them. We are currently reviewing methods of expanding our police coverage in our township in a more cost-effective manner. More to come.

Also, we are working together with Michigan blood to have a blood drive at the township hall on February 16, 2021. It is very safe to donate and giving blood saves lives!

We are in a different world today. The way we celebrate with our families has changed, the way we live, work, educate our children, and interact is different for so many. We don't clearly know if we are just entering the maelstrom or sailing towards its end. However, we will get through it together as a community and stronger as Country. It is in our blood as Americans that when faced with events such as this pandemic, we have historically always come out stronger and more united. We have to believe the same is true today. There is nothing that we cannot accomplish when we come together as one community and nation! Be kind to each other, be vigilant, we will get through this together! On behalf of Charter Township Monitor and the Spencer family, I would like to wish you happy holidays! God bless you all and may God bless America!

Terry M. Spencer, Supervisor

Report from Clerk, Linda K. Ferguson

Happy Holidays from the Clerk's Office

First of all, I want to say Thank You for electing me as your Township Clerk. I am excited to take on my new role after serving as Deputy Clerk for almost 23 years. The office has already welcomed my Deputy, Pam Reinhardt. We are very lucky to have her. She comes with much experience working previously as a Deputy Clerk for almost ten years. Currently we are busy catching up after a very busy election year. Voters need to be commended for making their voices heard this year. For the November election the township had almost half of our registered voters vote absentee, that was over 4,300 AV ballots voted. This was the most we've had vote AV. Previously the highest was in the November 2016 General Election with 2,038 voting. Of the registered voters, we had a 79% turnout for the November 2020 election. Our work hasn't slowed down yet either. Currently we are converting our office software to integrate with the rest of the office since the current software will not be supported next year. One thing this year has proven for sure is that everything changes, we will continue to work for you to keep up with it all.

Linda K. Ferguson, Clerk

Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike

Treasurer's Office Hours for 2020-2021: Due to Covid-19 Office is closed to the Public and Taxes can be mailed or use the drop box in the South End of Parking Lot next to Mail Box. There are 2 yellow poles around the Brown Drop Box. This box is checked 3 times a day. Your check is your receipt for tax payment. Tear off the bottom portion of tax bill and enclose with payment in the drop box or mail to Treasurers Office 2483 Midland Rd. Bay City MI 48706. Write your check number on the top portion of your tax bill for your income tax and records. If you do want a stamped paid invoice, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for us to return to you. NO CASH PLEASE...Checks or Money order is the best way to pay your taxes until this Covid-19 era is over. You can call the office Monday thru Friday 9am – 12pm & 1pm – 4pm at 989-684-7203 and press 1 for Treasurers office.

Office Closed Dec 24 & 25th and 31st 2020 - Jan 1, Jan 18 and February 15 of 2021

Due to an error on the Bay County Clerks Certificate, the ISD Voc Skill Millage of 0.18939 should have been 0.18933 and ISD Special Ed 2.8403 should be 2.8392 which adjusted your tax bill lower by a few cents. Difference of .0017 Please disregard your first tax bill (printed on Green paper) and pay from this revised tax bill (printed on WHITE paper). Keep white tax Bill for your income tax.

Revised Winter Taxes will be mailed out December 4th, be sure to review carefully for any corrections. If you do not receive your tax bill by the 15th, please call our office to verify your address and to have a duplicate sent.

Partial payments are accepted. Check and Money Orders are preferred payments. Credit Cards are not accepted here at the Township **WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS**. Winter Tax is due February 16th, 2021. Payments must be in office by due date to avoid penalty and interest.

Additional **copies are .35 each**. To our residents that requested a stamped paid receipt, be sure to include your 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 a NSF fee, so 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 your taxes**, please remember that payment is due by February 16, 2021.

As a service to the community, we issue cat and dog licenses for the county and will be available at the tax window. You must call for an appointment and wear a mask to enter. Please have your rabies certificate present to issue your pet a license.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and that all your family member's stay safe! It is a pleasure to serve you!

Sue Pike, Treasurer

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer

This has been a busy year for the fire department. Currently we are at 1082 runs and with COVID-19 things are not slowing down. Your firefighters continue to stand the front line and do their jobs. We are cleaning and disinfecting our equipment on a regular basis and track our people every day. We will continue to monitor and update our procedures according to the Department of Health and the CDC and our Local Medical Control.

Regarding the COVID-19 virus. We ask that you remain vigilant and continue to wash your hands frequently, clean your surfaces at home and at work. Use a Lysol spray regularly and social distance. The mask is very important when you are in large groups of people or shopping etc. Because of this COVID-19 spike we have again gone to allowing you to obtain your burning permits via telephone for the time being. Please call for your permits but if you show up, we will still issue it in person. With everybody doing their part we will overcome this and eventually beat this pandemic and get back to some kind of normal.

This is the holiday season. Outdoor burning is allowed in Monitor Township however when you burn brush (leaves, tree branches, etc.) you **MUST** obtain a burning permit. (This includes ditches). You cannot push your leaves into a county ditch and then set them on fire. That is illegal and could be costly if we get called out. Camp fires are allowed as long as they are done safely and are small and contained. If you have questions please call the fire department at 684-6320.

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer cont.

Our building project is well underway and moving along well. The house to our west is gone and the current station is coming along fine. Please remember that this is a construction site and you cannot wander into the project area without our permission and an escort. This is for your safety and liability reasons. You may stop by and watch at any time. We are excited and this has been a long time coming. We again want to thank our community for their support this project and you will not be disappointed. We continue to respond as normal and our office of operations in the township hall. Quarters are small and cramped but we are adjusting quite well and I am proud of my staff for stepping up to help make this happen. No matter what we throw at these firefighters they always find a way to adjust and maintain our commitment to our community.

Please maintain fire safety throughout the holiday season. Clean your fire places often, keep heaters at least three feet from any combustible item in your home and keep matches and lighters away from children. Make sure your candles are protected and blow them out before you leave or go to bed. I encourage everyone to sleep with your bedroom doors closed. Studies have proven that less damage and life safety survivability is high when the doors are closed. Fire Safety is everybody's responsibility and if we all work together this will be a great and safe holiday season.

We want to take this time to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe out there!

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, 2021. Pavilion Reservations Begin: January 2, 2021.

2021 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, 2021

Township Elected Officials & Administrative Staff		
Supervisor	Terry Spencer	supervisor@monitortwp.org
Clerk	Linda Ferguson	clerk@monitortwp.org
Treasurer	Sue Pike	treasurer@monitortwp.org
Assessor	Beth Patterson	assessor@monitortwp.org
Deputy Clerk	P. Reinhardt	
Deputy Treasurer	Josie Hill	
Admin Sec.	Diane Peters	office@monitortwp.org
Building Asst.	Carol Goodwin	building@monitortwp.org
Trustee:	Gary A Brandt	Trustee: Earl Arnold
	Tina McCulloch	Trustee: Bob Walsh

January---June 2021 Meeting Dates	
Township Board	
January 25	February 22
March 29	April 26
May 10	June 28
Planning Commission	
January 5	February 2
March 2	April 6
May 4	June 1
Zoning Board of Appeals	
January 21	February 18
March 18	April 15
May 20	June 17

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

<u>Township Hours & Building Department Info</u>	
Office Hours	9am-12pm & 1 pm-5pm
Tax Collection Hours	9am-12pm & 1 pm-4pm
Assessor Beth Patterson	8am-12pm & 1 pm-5pm
Building Department	8am-12pm
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 Assessor, Beth L. Patterson

Uncapping & 2021 Rate of Inflation

What is meant by "taxable value uncapping"? Except for additions and losses to a property, annual increases in the property's taxable value are limited to 5% or the inflation rate, whichever is less. In the year following a statutory transfer of ownership, that limitation is eliminated and the property's taxable value is set at 50% of the property's true cash value (i.e., the state equalized value). This is what is meant by "taxable value uncapping".

What does this mean for you? It is important for you to know that in the calendar year after you purchase your property, your taxes will no longer be based on the previous owner's capped taxable value. The taxable value in your second calendar year of ownership will only increase by the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less, unless additions or losses to the property occur, because it is now capped.

Note: *A property's true cash value is usually not the same as its sale price for a variety of reasons. An assessor must determine the true cash value of a property which has sold in the same manner that the assessor determines the true cash values of properties which have not sold. Therefore, an assessor may not automatically set an assessed value or a taxable value at half of a property's selling price.*

In other news, the rate of inflation for 2021 is 1.4%, which is lower than the last three years.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Beth L. Patterson, Assessor

For non-emergency issues, you can now contact our Sheriff Deputy on Duty at 989-684-7203 ext. 5

Reminder Offices Closed:

December 24th, 25th & 31st,
January 1 & 18th February
15th, April 2nd & May 31st

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.