

# Monitor Township News



2483 E. Midland Road Bay City MI 48706

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June 2020



## Report from Township Supervisor, Ken Malkin

The world has turned upside down from COVID-19 since our last newsletter. For the majority of that time, we have been operating on a part time appointment basis only due to the Governor's Executive Orders. Under the circumstances, our operations have been going smoothly and there is a lot to report. First, I would draw your attention to the section about our Fire Station so that you can make an informed decision about our bond proposal.

We have more road projects to report this year. Recently, we paved Pepperberry subdivision. North Union, between Fraser Road and Seven Mile Road, is in its final phase. The Bay County Road Commission will be paving Chip Road between Mackinaw Road and Old Beaver Road. The Bay County Road Commission is responsible for our primary roads which are major roads such as Midland, Wheeler, Salzburg, and Three Mile Roads. Monitor Township is responsible for local roads through our road millage. Sometimes it is hard to tell who is responsible. For example, part of Chip Road is a primary road and part of it is a local road. As a result, paving the different parts of that road had a different schedule and were paved at different times. Following each township project, I made an effort to visit individuals at their home to get their feedback. That effort had to end as a result of the current COVID-19 crisis.

Monitor Township is also the recipient of a number of grants. We received a Site Readiness grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for \$100,000. We also received multiple grants totaling \$155,122 for the development of Herbert Steih Park which is located along the Kawkawlin River on Monitor Road near the Kawkawlin Village. Over the years, Steih Park has been a popular destination for fishing and kayaking access. However, the Township has concerns with erosion of the park. Below is a list of grants that we have received so far. We are using these dollars to apply to the State of Michigan for a grant to make substantial improvements to the park. I want to give a special thank you to Mike Kelly of the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network and Larry Greene of the Kawkawlin River Watershed Association. I could not have successfully applied for these grants without their assistance. I would also like to thank those listed below for their generous support of Monitor Township. Here are the grants we received to date:

Eastern Michigan Council of Governments	\$9,168
Bay Area Community Foundation Community Initiative Fund	\$75,000
Bay Area Community Foundation Environmental Endowment Fund	\$15,000
Bay Area Community Foundation Oscar P. and Louise Osthelder Advisory Fund	\$10,954
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network Conservation Fund	\$20,000
Enbridge Energy	\$25,000

Finally, some other quick notes of interest. We finally completed the update to our personnel policies. I had a phone call from a resident who wanted to let you know that if you do not want to receive the Michigan Best newspaper you can call (800) 804-5788 and ask for customer service. I also recently saw a sign that said "FLUSHABLE WIPES ARE NOT FLUSHABLE." I mention this because these "flushable wipes" are creating serious problems with our sanitary sewer system. We have also had a number of complaints about neighbors not cleaning the leaves out of their storm water drain which keeps our new roads from draining.

*Ken Malkin, Supervisor*

## *Report from Clerk, Cindy L. Kowalski*

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

**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

**August 4, 2020 – Primary Election**

**November 3, 2020 – General Election**

Wish to skip the social distancing lines at the polls? Under the new law, no reason is required to vote absentee. Please be assured voter integrity is our main goal and ballots are tracked from the time they are issued to when they are returned and delivered to the AV Counting Boards election day for processing.

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 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.**

Ballots will be mailed approximately 45 days before each election to all voters who have returned the absent voter application.

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.

### 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 in July for all inspectors willing to work the Primary and/or General Elections. Election Inspector Applications are available Monday – Friday during regular business hours. **Involve yourself in the election process and apply today!**

*Cindy Kowalski*, Clerk

## *Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike*

Tax Collection Hours are Monday through Friday 9am – 12pm & 1pm – 4pm

Summer Taxes will be mailed out June 29<sup>th</sup>, be sure to review carefully for any corrections. Taxes are not forwarded in the US mail, so for you snow birds stop in to see the assessor to have your address changed. If you have not received your tax bill by July 10<sup>th</sup>, please call our office to find out to whom and where they were mailed out to. Please be aware that the state law says 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 first of July and on the first of December of each year. If for some reason you do not receive a tax bill, please call our office to verify your address and to have a duplicate sent.

A Note to all... I have spoken with US Postal carrier and mail now goes to Detroit and back to Bay City. Turn around is now 2-5 days. Longer for out of state so, please keep this in mind for those of you who pay close to last day to avoid late charges. WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS. Your payment must be in our office by the due date.

I would like to share some information with you for the upcoming 2020 Summer Tax Season. Our summer tax bill will consist of State Education Tax, County Operating Tax and Bay City Public School tax. Summer millage total is 32.7157. If 100% homestead, 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, 2021. As a courtesy, we have mailed all those who were deferred in the prior year a new application to fill out. **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 [www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury) and typing "471" into the search bar. Applications will be accepted from July 1 through September 15, 2020.

As always cat and dog licenses will be available at the tax window. Please have your rabies certificate present to issue your pet a license. Treasurer's office will be closed July 4 and Sept 7<sup>th</sup>.

Wishing you all a Safe and Happy Summer!

*Sue Pike, Treasurer*

**SEWER UPDATE**

A few years ago, Monitor Township received a grant to investigate the condition of our sanitary sewer system. Much of the current system is decades old and in need of repair. The Township is in the process of applying for long term loans to repair our infrastructure. This project does not include any expansion of the current sewer lines. It is only for the needed repair of our sanitary sewer system.

**Monitor Township Park**

The park has opened for the season. If you walk your pets, please pick up after them in order to keep our park clean for everyone. Park Closes September 30, 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 Ends: November 30, 2020**

**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	Beth Patterson	<a href="mailto:assessor@monitortwp.org">assessor@monitortwp.org</a>
Deputy Clerk	Linda Ferguson	
Deputy Treasurer	Josie Hill	
Admin Secretary	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

**January---June 2020 Meeting Dates**

**Township Board**

<b>July 27</b>	<b>August 24</b>
<b>September 28</b>	<b>October 26</b>
<b>November 23</b>	<b>December 14</b>

**Planning Commission**

<b>July 7</b>	<b>August 11</b>
<b>September 1</b>	<b>October 6</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>December 1</b>

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

<b>July 16</b>	<b>August 20</b>
<b>September 17</b>	<b>October 15</b>
<b>November 19</b>	<b>December 17</b>

**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.

**Drive Safe!**

**Sheriff Dept. (989) 895-4050**

**Township Hours & Building Department Info**

<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>9am-12pm &amp; 1 pm-5pm</b>
<b>Tax Collection Hours</b>	<b>9am-12pm &amp; 1 pm-4pm</b>
<b>Assessor Beth Patterson</b>	<b>8am-12pm &amp; 1 pm-5pm</b>
<b>Building Department</b>	<b>8am-12pm &amp; 1 pm-5pm</b>
<b>Building Inspector</b>	<b>Dave DeGrow</b>
<b>Zoning Enforcement</b>	<b>David Rochow</b>
<b>Electrical Inspector</b>	<b>Frank Bryden</b>
<b>Plumbing &amp; Mech Inspector</b>	<b>Dell Bedford</b>

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**Charter Township of  
Monitor**

2483 E. Midland Road  
Bay City MI 48706-9469

We're on the Web!  
[www.monitortwp.org](http://www.monitortwp.org)

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***Report From your Township Assessor, Beth L. Patterson***



**What Does the Coronavirus Mean for The Housing Market?** The pandemic caused by COVID-19 virus has sent shockwaves through the U.S. economy and its influence on the real estate market has yet to be determined. Social-distancing measures made it extremely difficult for real estate agents to show homes to prospective buyers and closing a loan in person was basically impossible. Agents had to change gears quickly, offering online tours of properties and virtual closings to buyers. Prior to the outbreak in Michigan the housing market had a strong momentum right up through the middle of March and many experts do expect a strong bounce back in Michigan once we return to normal living conditions. This of course is based on the continued demand we are seeing. If the market inventory is low, which the experts speculate, prices will increase. The lower interest rates also play a large part in the future of what is to come for the second half of 2020.

In other news, the Bay County Register of Deeds, is implementing a safeguard to protect Bay County property owners from property theft and fraud. The new system, Doxpop Property Watch, will become available June 1, 2020 and is open to all Bay County Residents. Once a property owner is registered in the Doxpop system, Property Watch will notify the property owner, via email or text message, when that property owner's recorded property has been transferred. This new system is **100% free to the residents of Bay County** and was procured at no cost to the tax payers of Bay County. The Register of Deeds strongly urges all residents of Bay County to take advantage of this free service. On June 1<sup>st</sup> a postcard will be mailed to every residence with information on how to sign up for this valuable protection. If you need assistance to find your parcel numbers you may access [www.baycounty-mi.gov/ROD/Default.aspx](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/ROD/Default.aspx) and click on "Property Tax Query". From there you can search the tax records for parcel numbers. You may also call the Register of Deeds office directly for assistance at (989) 895-4228 or call Doxpop toll-free at (866) 369-7671

***Beth L. Patterson, Assessor***

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