

# Monitor Township News

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July 2021

## Report from Township Supervisor, Terry M. Spencer

Greetings from the Monitor Township Office! It's been a busy year and we are working hard on many projects to improve our community and our quality of living here. While our focus is to ensure our township business/services to our residents run at top proficiency, customer service is at the top of our priorities.

**Monitor Township Fire Station Project.** I am excited on the continuing progress of this project! It is always great to say that a project is under budget and ahead of schedule. I can't say enough about how proficient our contractors have been and how great it has been to work with our local businesses, lead by Serenus Johnson Construction. It is going to be a great fixture in our township for many years to come. We look forward to inviting the public to come out and look for themselves when the project is 100% completed.

We are moving forward with **Wastewater System Improvements.** The project consists of sanitary sewer improvements throughout the Township by upgrading eleven (11) pump stations with new mechanical, piping, electrical, and controls, installing cured-in-place pipe liners and one cured-in-place point liner, excavating and replacing deformed pipes, and raising manholes to grade to allow for access.

We have received so much positive feedback from our new webpage, [monitortwp.org](http://monitortwp.org), and Facebook page: **Monitor Charter Township.** We are continuing to make updates and changes to best suit our residents. Please check the calendar for events and consider liking and sharing our social media page for continuing updates of events, news, and information from Township Officials.

We have made many minor improvements at **Monitor Park** and many others are in the works. Some of these improvements were directly from community members who volunteered at our **1<sup>st</sup> Monitor Township Park Cleanup Project** that occurred in the spring. We look forward to continuing projects of this nature so that the community can get involved and it also gives us an opportunity to help our local students get their volunteer hours needed for graduation.

In more positive park news, our team is in the works towards improvements at **Steih Park.** We are looking to leverage a total of \$450,000 towards park improvements through a match grant with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund. These improvements would change the face of this park, enhancing this public access on the Kawkawlin River by improving the area for family gatherings, fishing, launching a kayak to paddle the river, or accessing the Saginaw Bay.

The **Bi-Monthly Blood Drives** have had an outstanding response from our community and the number of people signing up to donate keeps growing! Please check our calendar if you would like to get involved and help save lives. A few other events on the calendar, Oct 30<sup>th</sup> **Monitor Township Park Trunk or Treat Halloween event**, 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Christmas Lights Contest** will start Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, and currently working on a date for a **Free CPR Classes** for township residents, which will be instructed by Certified Instructors with our Fire Department.

Inserted in the newsletter is the **Monitor Township Resident Communication Survey.** Please take the time to fill out the survey and send it back to the Township Office. You can also fill the survey out online by going to <https://tinyurl.com/v3pbdbc>. Please complete the survey no later than August 1, 2021. The survey can be completed by any Monitor Township resident who is 18 years old or older. We ask for your name for verification only. Your answers will be shared only as part of group information and no individual person will be identified or shared. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!

On behalf of my family and I, we wish everyone a great summer and please remember to get your American Flags out to celebrate our Independence Day! Please feel free to stop in or call me anytime about any Township concern! Be safe and **May God Bless America!**

*Terry M. Spencer, Supervisor*

## Report from Clerk, Linda K. Ferguson

The changes have not stopped coming for the Clerk's office. The Bay City Public School District has decided to no longer allow elections at the Public-School Facilities. We have located new locations to replace the schools and updated some precincts. It is all stated below, but rest assured you *will be receiving a new Voter I.D. card this summer* when the changes are complete and you can check your voting location at <https://mvc.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

**WHERE AS,** the Bay City Public School District at the January 21, 2021 public hearing, with Election Coordinator, Bay County Clerk, Cynthia A. Luczak, Arenac County Clerk, Nancy Selle, Superintendent of the Bay Arenac Intermediate School District and the Local Clerks within the counties of Bay and Arenac, Michigan, with agreement by all, that the Public-School Facilities should no longer be used as polling locations in consideration of the safety and security of students.

**WHERE AS,** the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Monitor has signed a lease with the Intermediate School District to use their Conference Center at 2939 Bay Arenac Drive, Bay City, Michigan; and voted to use the Armory at 2510 E Wilder Road, Bay City, Michigan by signing a rental contract for each election.

**WHERE AS,** Michigan election law stipulates that all precincts "shall be composed as nearly as practicable of compact and contiguous territory and shall have clearly defined and clearly observable

## *Report from Clerk, Linda K. Ferguson cont.*

boundaries", to be in accordance with this the Bokatondon Reserve currently designated as Precinct 1 will be combined with Precinct 3, thus squaring off Precinct 3.

**WHERE AS**, with the reduction in polling places, the Election Commission will combine the remaining Precinct 1 with Precinct 6, thus eliminating Precinct 6.

**WHERE AS**, polling locations shall be as follows, Precinct 4 at the Intermediate School District, Conference Center, 2939 Bay Arenac Drive, Bay City, Michigan; Precinct 2 and Precinct 3 at the Armory, 2510 E. Wilder Road, Bay City, Michigan; and Precinct 1 and Precinct 5 at the Charter Township of Monitor, 2483 Midland Road, Bay City, Michigan.

Any registered voter is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot for an upcoming election. You can even be added to the permanent absentee mailing list by using this link <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>. This means we will mail you an application for each election - you must sign it and return it so we can mail you a ballot.

If you wish to participate in working the elections, Election Inspector applications are available at the township hall and on the website.

We are working to make the election process the best we can for you.

*Linda K. Ferguson, Clerk*

## *Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike*

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

Our Entire office is Closed 12-1 pm for lunch.

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... WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS. Your payment must be in our office by the due date. Mail is no longer 2 days; therefore, we cannot accept postmarks.

I would like to share some information with you for the upcoming 2021 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 32.5847. If 100% homestead, summer millage total will be 14.5847

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, 2022. 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, 2021.

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 5 and Sept. 6, Oct. 11, Nov. 25-26.

Wishing you all a Safe and Happy Summer!

*Sue Pike, Treasurer*

## *Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer*

It has been a busy spring for the fire department. For those of you who burn brush and leaves it has been very dry out. The whole state is in a drought and it makes it very dangerous for brush fires. The DNR controls us being able to issue permits. If you go to the DNR website [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and click on the map you will see a few things. We are controlled by the DNR in Standish and the site is updated every ten minutes. If Bay County is brown then we can't issue permits. If Bay County is orange, then we are allowed to issue the permits. One question we get very often is "We just had a lot of rain, why isn't it opened up?"

## Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer cont.

Please remember that even with some rain, if there is wind or it has been very dry the surface water soaks up very fast and the vegetation is still dry. We ask that you have understanding with this process. Burning without a permit can be costly to you. To help with this we have allowed you to call the fire station at 684-6320 to get your permits over the phone. This was started because of COVID and the building project currently going on. Please call the department for your permits. This will not be permanent as our ordinance still requires a signature.

At some point this will change but it requires an ordinance change by the Township Board. It is work in progress. Please be respectful to your neighbors and watch your smoke. We do not chase the odor of smoke but if it is going into a home and we receive a call, we will come out and investigate it.

Our building project is coming along just fine. Things are really happening now. It is a very busy construction site. There really has been no slow down and the construction crews from the various companies are working very hard and doing a great job. When you drive by you can see that the cement approaches have been completed and they are working on the retaining wall on the west side of the property. Interior walls are going up fast and some rooms and offices are already being painted. It is starting to come together. The good news is that this project is ahead of schedule and on budget. Serenus Johnson has done an excellent job keeping things moving and on time. We have been using local businesses and companies to help support them and their staff. Check out our fire department Facebook page for pictures. The project has not affected our response to emergencies and we still continue to function as a normal department.

Summer is here and it is going to be hot. Please take care of and look out for the elderly family members and neighbors. A simple hello and how are you doing is all it takes. Please be safe and have a great summer. Do not hesitate to call us with questions or concerns. We are always here to help and provide you best service possible.

Stay safe out there.

**Chief John R. Kramer**

**Monitor Township Park**  
Please respect our parks. Pick up after your pet in order to keep our park clean for everyone.  
Park bathrooms close September 30, 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 Ends: November 30, 2021**

<b>Township Elected Officials &amp; Administrative Staff</b>		
Supervisor	Terry Spencer	<a href="mailto:supervisor@monitortwp.org">supervisor@monitortwp.org</a>
Clerk	Linda Ferguson	<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>
Asst. Assessor	Heidi Guerra	<a href="mailto:asstassessor@monitortwp.org">asstassessor@monitortwp.org</a>
Deputy Clerk	Pam Reinhardt	<a href="mailto:deputyclerk@monitortwp.org">deputyclerk@monitortwp.org</a>
Deputy Treasurer	Josie Hill	<a href="mailto:deputytreasurer@monitortwp.org">deputytreasurer@monitortwp.org</a>
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: Earl Arnold	
Trustee: Tina McCulloch	Trustee: Bob Walsh	

<b>July-December 2021 Meeting Dates</b>	
<b>Township Board</b>	
July 26	October 25
August 23	November 22
Sept 27	December 13
<b>Planning Commission</b>	
July 6	October 5
August 3	November 2
Sept 7	December 7
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	
July 15	October 21
August 19	November 18
Sept 16	December 16

### Report from the Sheriff Department

Want to speak with a Deputy about a non-emergency complaint or questions? Please call our office, 684-7203 #5 or stop in if you see the Deputy's patrol car. Vacation house check forms are also available at the Township office.

Township Crime Statistics viewed at:  
<https://monitortwp.org/township-crime-statistics/>

<b>Township Hours &amp; Building Department Info</b>	
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

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**Charter Township of  
Monitor**

2483 E. Midland Road  
Bay City MI 48706-9469

Check out our  
new website &  
Facebook page  
Monitortwp.org &  
Monitor Charter  
Township

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

With the warm weather upon us the Assessing Department will be scheduling assessments of improved property throughout the year. To accomplish this task in a timely manner, we would like to welcome our new employee Heidi Guerra to the department. Heidi will be contacting various residents this year in order to assess new construction or re-assess older homes. In short, she will be verifying measurements and other features of the home to make sure you are uniformly, and properly assessed.

Staying on the topic of assessed and taxable values, we have compiled various FAQs for you to better understand the process. If you every have any questions, please contact our offices during business hours or feel free to send an email to: [assessor@monitortwp.org](mailto:assessor@monitortwp.org)

**How was my assessed value determined?**

Assessors use a state required mass appraisal method to value properties. We estimate land values from sales data and building values from a state cost manual. Then, we analyze sales data from your neighborhood and develop factors we use to further adjust our estimates to reflect local market value.

**I haven't made any improvements to my house. Why did my assessed value change?**

Your market value can change even when there is no physical change to your property. A growing economy or increasing population can push housing values steadily upward. The Assessor does not create increases in property value. He/she recognizes changes as they occur and must adjust values accordingly.

**Why is my change in assessed value different than my neighbor's?**

Assessed value changes vary according to the individual characteristics of houses in relation to sales in your area. Building style, size and amenities such as porches, decks, garages, and extra bathrooms affect value estimates.

**My assessed value didn't change, but my taxable value increased. Why?**

The current sales information for your neighborhood may show no value increase over last year's value. However, the taxable value is tied to the Consumer Price Index and calculated annually causing an increase in your taxable value.

**Why are my neighbor's taxes less than mine?**

Property taxes are determined individually according to taxable value. If you recently purchased your property, your taxable value was uncapped. Your neighbor's taxable value may still be capped and less than yours. The assessed values on a property in 1994 became the base value for taxable value calculations starting in 1995. Because properties have been bought and sold at different times taxable values may vary significantly. A lower taxable value means lower taxes.