

Monitor Township News

2483 E. Midland Road Bay City MI 48706
December 2021



Report from Township Supervisor, Terry M. Spencer

Greetings and Happy Holidays from Monitor Township. A year ago, I mentioned in a previous newsletter that my main goal as your Supervisor would be to continue to move our Township forward and improve our quality of life. Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.

Earlier this year we began to host community **Blood Drives** in Monitor Township Hall. As we wrap up our last blood drive on **December 30th**, we have collected many liters of blood which has contributed to saving many lives. It is important to note that Monitor Township is making a difference in our community and helping to save lives. If you are able, please donate at our next blood drive.

We have completed our **Fire Station Project**. It was important to me that we complete this project ahead of schedule and under budget. I am happy to report, we accomplished both of those goals. A special thank you to local construction company Serenus Johnson Construction Co. for their great leadership with this project. In addition, a very special thank you to them for building and donating our first **Free Little Library/Non-Perishable Donation Box**, which is now located across from the Township office in the Township overflow parking lot.

The **Monitor Township Park Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Event** in October was well-attended and fun for all. We had over 500 smiling trick-or-treaters and greatly look forward to next year's event. We have many entries in the **2nd Annual Holiday Lights Contest**. Thank you to our sponsors **Begick Nursery, O's Restaurant, and B's Boutique** for your support in this community event. Please take the time to drive around our Township some night and see the displays! Working with the **Bay County Road Commission** and **McAlear Sawden Elem.** I requested the speed limit be reduced during the school drop off and pick up times. Our BCRC was quick to act in new sign placements for the safety of our children. Please observe the new signs/speed limit.

Waste Water System Improvement Project is moving forward. We have started the upgrade of 11 pump stations and raising manhole covers investing nearly \$3 million into our sanitary sewer system.

As many of you are aware, our Township will be receiving just over \$1 million from the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**. Although no decision has been made on how to put the funds to beneficial use, we will seek to invest that money in our economic growth. Please visit our new website, www.monitortwp.org and review the **Feasibility Report: Wilder Road Sanitary Sewer** by Spicer Group. This report was published by the request of Bay County Department of Water & Sewer, Monitor Charter Township, and Bay Future Inc. By utilizing these once-in-a-lifetime assistance funds to reinvest in our community, we can continue to see positive growth in Monitor Township.

Relating to positive growth, we are also fortunate as a Township to have nearly a **\$400 million investment** in our Township this year. By working with Bay Future Inc., we have two of the largest investments in the history of Bay County. These investments will create over 150 high-paying, skilled jobs over the next 3 years. I am avidly working and excited to see more of these types of investments come into our Township, big and small.

In closing, I am proud to announce we have received final approval for park improvements with a matching **Grant with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund**. This match Grant will leverage approximately \$450,000 to park improvements at **Herbert W. Steih Memorial Park** in Kawkawlin. This project is scheduled to break ground 2023 and will positively change the face of the park in so many ways. Special thanks to Mike Kelly, Director of the Great Lakes Region Conservation Fund for his persistent assistance in making this happen.

To the Residents of Monitor Township, I am always looking for new ideas to improve our community and way of life. I encourage our community to get involved. To the parents in Monitor that are looking for volunteer opportunities for your students' needing hours, consider the **2022 Park Cleanup Project**. Watch for dates to be announced in the spring.

On behalf of my family (Sara, Ethan, Cole, and Blaze) we wish Happy Holidays from our family to yours. I am thankful for everything my staff and I have accomplished in the last year in **#MovingMonitorForward** and excited to see what we can do in 2022! Remember in these unprecedented times to be good to your neighbors and count each day as a blessing. Please feel free to stop in the office anytime or call if you have a concern.

Terry Spencer, Supervisor

Report from Clerk, Linda K. Ferguson

Registered Voters should have received their new Voter I.D. cards over the summer. It was sent to confirm your precinct and polling location as some have changed. **If you are an absentee voter – that status has not been changed.**

If you are not registered you can use the Michigan Voter Information Center Michigan.gov/vote to register to vote, find your voting location, apply for an absentee ballot online, track an absentee ballot, and much more.

If you are interested in working the 2022 Election applications are available at the township hall and on the website. monitortwp.org. Polling places are as follows: Precincts 2 and 3, the Armory at 2510 E Wilder Road, Precinct 4 is the Bay Arenac Intermediate School District - Conference Center, 2939 Bay Arenac Drive and Precincts 1 and 5 are at the Charter Township of Monitor, 2483 Midland Road. *If you were in Precinct 6 – it has been combined with Precinct 1.* Wishing everyone a blessed Holiday season!

Linda Ferguson, Clerk and *Pam Reinhardt*, Deputy Clerk

Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike

Treasurer's Office Hours for 2021-2022: Monday thru Friday 9am – 12pm & 1pm – 4pm
Office Closed Dec 24 & 27th and 30th 2021 - Jan 3, Jan 17 and February 21 of 2022.

As we enter a New Year, here are 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 snow birds... 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. Cash, Check and Money Orders are preferred payments. **Credit Cards are accepted online or by phone.** See our website www.monitortwp.org and click on Department, Treasurer and the link for credit card payments. To pay by phone, please call 855-786-5317 and follow the phone prompts. Please remember payments must be received by due date—allow 3-5 business days for the transaction to process. Late payments will be assessed a late fee. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS.** Winter Tax is due February 14, 2022. 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, 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 14, 2022.

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:

Well, it has been a very busy year for us. As you know we moved into our beautiful new building and had our ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on October 10th. This was a great project and is something the community can be proud of for a very long time. We are getting situated and acclimating to the new systems and workings. It is very efficient, and our operation level is at its highest and most effective in years. We take our job very seriously and protect your equipment and keep it clean and working smoothly. The firefighters are proud of this and will continue to keep improving our service every day. We would like to remind you that the entrance is now on the north side of the building. When you enter there is a button on the wall that you push, and it will alert us that you are there, and someone will be there shortly. Our run calls are not slowing down so there will be times that you will come to see us and we may not be there. Feel free to call and leave a message and we will return your call as soon as we return from our run. Thank you for your support with this project.

Burning permits are still done over the phone for the remainder of the year. Just call us at 684-6320 and we will issue them over the phone. You can still come down to get one if you wish. Most likely after the first of the year we will return to normal, and you will have to come to the station to get one. This is due to the way the ordinance is written. We hope to improve this service in the future to make it easier on you so please have patience while this is a work in progress. Please remember that in Monitor Twp. You must get a burning permit issued by the fire dept. to burn your leaves, tree branches, etc. It is illegal to burn grass and garbage. You need a permit to burn your ditches. We follow the DNR web site which mandates us and our permits. If they close the window, we must stop issuing permits until they open it up again. Be considerate of your neighbors and watch the direction your smoke is going. If it goes into your neighbor's home and we get a call, we will come and assess the situation and may require you to extinguish the fire until another day when conditions are good.

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer cont.

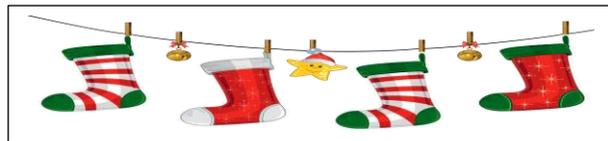
It is the holiday season and as always, we ask you to always practice fire safety. If you are deep frying a turkey, do it outside and away from your home. Do not over fill the pot with oil. Have an extinguisher at hand in case something goes wrong. When putting up Christmas lights and decorating your tree, please remember these few safety tips. Water the tree often. Do not use open flame decorations near or on the tree. Make sure your Christmas lights are in good shape and the wires are not frayed. Do not run your extension cords under rugs or carpeting. The wires generate heat and can catch fire easily.

Clean your fireplaces and make sure you have a good screen to keep popping embers from landing on your floor or carpeting. Always clean your chimney in the fall to prevent the chimney from catching fire.

Check your smoke alarms and replace batteries when needed. Have a safe and happy holiday season and are here for you and your fire service needs.

Stay safe out there.

Chief John R. Kramer



Monitor Township Park

The Park bathrooms have 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 bathrooms will open May 1, 2022. Pavilion Reservations Begin: January 4, 2022.

2022 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, 2022

Township Elected Officials & Administrative Staff

Supervisor	Terry Spencer	supervisor@monitortwp.org
Clerk	Linda Ferguson	clerk@monitortwp.org
Deputy Clerk	Pam Reinhardt	deputyclerk@monitortwp.org
Treasurer	Sue Pike	treasurer@monitortwp.org
Deputy Treasurer	Josie Hill	deputytreasurer@monitortwp.org
Assessor	Beth Patterson	assessor@monitortwp.org
Asst. Assessor	Heidi Guerra	asstassessor@monitortwp.org
Building Asst.	Carol Goodwin	building@monitortwp.org
Admin Sec.	Diane Peters	office@monitortwp.org
Trustee: Gary A Brandt	Trustee: Earl Arnold	
Trustee: Tina McCulloch	Trustee: Bob Walsh	

January---June 2022 Meeting Dates

Township Board

January 10	February 14
March 14	April 11
May 9	June 13

Planning Commission

January 4	February 1
March 1	April 5
May 3	June 7

Zoning Board of Appeals

January 20	February 17
March 17	April 21
May 19	June 16

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) 684-7203 ext 112

Township Hours & Building Department Info

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
Township Office Phone number 989-684-7203	

**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. Fletcher-Patterson

With the National Association of Realtors calling "crisis-level" this year many Michigan communities as well as our Township has experienced record-high home prices with relatively low level of listings this summer. One thing is for sure is that listed homes in the area have not stayed on the market very long and potential buyers are left wondering what the future holds for housing affordability and availability. Unfortunately, as prices rise many are priced out of purchasing a new home. How long can this last? Many experts forecast that the buying frenzy could level off by spring of 2022 but only if new home construction catches up to the demand. Needless to say, homebuilders have had their own obstacles to overcome with ever-rising material costs.

As a further indication of inflation, November 16, 2021 the Michigan State Tax Commission released its **Inflation Rate Multiplier for 2022** which is developed from specific numbers and averages from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the number that is mandated per statute in MCL 211.34d to increase taxable value. For 2022 this ratio is 1.033, or 3.3%. Since the start of Proposal A in 1995, this number has fluctuated from a low of under 1% to a high of 3.7%. Additional information on how this number is developed and what impact it may have on your taxes (including Millage Rate statistics) please visit our website at monitortwp.org, under the Assessing Department. With any luck, the current situation that we are experiencing is pandemic-related and hopefully temporary.

Furthermore, it is now more than ever important to make sure that your record cards are up to date with our department. At first glance, the real estate property assessment record card can be intimidating. There is a wealth of information that can be difficult to read and understand for someone who does not work in real estate. As a buyer, seller, or owner of property, having an accurate summation of assessed value is beneficial. You can request an emailed copy of this report or access this information by clicking on the Online Property Inquiry tab on our website on the Assessing Department main page. Lastly, from myself and my Assistant Heidi Guerra, we hope that you have a joyful holiday and a safe and happy start to the new year.

Beth L. Fletcher-Patterson, Assessor & Deputy Supervisor
