

Monitor Township News

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



July 2022

Report from Township Supervisor, Terry M. Spencer

There have been several Township ordinance changes that have been discussed. One change proposed is to our sign ordinance. This change would allow digital signage in certain areas of the township and would open the possibility of having digital signage in front of the Township Office. This would allow us to communicate information to the public and be more visible from the road verses the dated sign we utilize today. These improvements would also help match our Township Office/Hall to the newly constructed **Monitor Township Fire Station**.

With the nearly \$400,000,000 of new investment in Monitor Township last year, (*the largest in Bay County history*) we are still working with businesses big and small to encourage economic growth in our township.

Another item we are working on is the current status of our DDA (**Downtown Development Authority** district in the Industrial Park). Our DDA was set to Sunset in 2026 by agreement with Monitor Township and Bay County that was signed in 2016. We have had discussions with Bay County on extending our DDA, increasing our boundaries, and re-capturing TIF (Tax Increment Financing) to reinvest in Monitor Township for "**Shovel Ready Sites**". This is important to encourage businesses to come to Monitor Township and Bay County, it is good for everyone!

We have received grants for park improvements with a match grant with the **Michigan National Resources Trust Fund**. This match grant will leverage approximately \$450,000 towards park improvements at the **Herbert W. Steih Memorial Park** in Kawkawlin. This project is scheduled for 2023 and will make some major improvements to the area. Currently we are waiting on finalization from the State of Michigan and will continue with the planning phase.

We are living in unprecedented times. The pandemic, supply chain issues, gas prices, inflation, and the growing threat of being pulled into war are a daily topic in our everyday conversations. As a Police Officer, I often talk to people about personal preparedness and these days could not be more fitting to have that conversation with your family, neighbors, and friends. If you do not know where to start, please visit the government website: <https://www.ready.gov/>.

Lastly, on behalf of my family (Sara, Cole, and Ethan) and my work family at Monitor Township, we wish everyone a happy and safe summer. Despite the challenges we face in America, I believe we can overcome all if we work together for the common good and take pride in our community and our country. God Bless America and please continue your support in Moving Monitor Forward!

Terry M. Spencer, Supervisor



**Wishing you a
happy, healthy
and safe
summer.
From the
Monitor
Township
Staff**

Report from Clerk, Linda K. Ferguson

Registered Voters should have received a new Voter Identification card recently. It was sent due to redistricting by the State of Michigan after the Census of 2020. Changes have been made to Monitor Township's State Senate District - it is now 35, and the U.S. Congressional District is now 8.

If you are a permanent absentee voter that has not changed. The dual applications for both the Primary Election August 2nd and the General Election November 8th should arrive shortly to your mailbox. They can be returned by mail, or using the drop box at the south end of the parking lot, or in person at the township office. **Note the new summer hours – the office will be closed on Friday.**

Reminder, the new polling places are as follows: Precincts 2 and 3, are at the Armory at 2510 E Wilder Road, Precinct 4 is at 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.)

If you are interested in working as an election inspector, applications are available at the township hall.

Much more Election information can easily be found at www.MI.Gov/vote

Happy Summer Season Everyone!

Linda K. Ferguson, Clerk

Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike

Summer Tax Collection Hours: Monday through Thursday 9am – 12pm & 1pm – 5pm

Our Entire office is Closed 12-1 pm for lunch, and closed Friday

Summer Taxes will be mailed out June 29th, 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 10th, please call our office to find out to whom and where they were mailed out. 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. Partial payments are accepted. Cash, Check and Money Orders are preferred payments. Credit Cards are accepted online only. See our website www.monitortwp.org and click on Department, Taxes and there is a link for credit card payments.

I would like to share some information with you for the upcoming 2022 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, 2023. 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 and typing "471" into the search bar. Applications will be accepted from July 1 through September 14, 2022.

As a service to the community, 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 4th and Sept 5th. Have a wonderful summer!

Sue Pike, Treasurer

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer

Greetings from your fire department. We have had a very busy year and our run totals are over 500 already. We have settled into the new facility and things are going well. Our community members continue to visit and tour our facility all the time. Please note that the new public entrance to the fire station is on the north side of the building. Enter the door and press the "Service" button on the wall and we will come let you in. Due to Homeland Security requirements our building must now be secured with what's been going on around the country. It has been working good so far.

We are almost done with our spring hydrant flushing. We will be out weed-whacking our hydrants soon, so you will see the firefighters on the roadside. Please use caution when passing them.

We have three on-call firefighters who have graduated the fire academy and ready to serve our community. They did a great job. They are John Braman, Maxwell Dardas and Marty Ferguson.

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer cont.

We look forward to working with them to keep their skills up to date and learning our system to continue to give you the best service. It is summertime, and the ground may be wet, but the vegetation is very dry. It is a very busy time for homeowners cleaning their yards and burning their brush piles. We really appreciate it that you call or stop in to get your burning permit. We are controlled by the DNR and when they shut our district down for issuing permits, we have no choice and can't issue them. Backyard small campfires are still allowed, and farmers can burn if it is directly involving their fields. Burning of ditches require a permit by law. Please call (989-684-6320) or stop in to get your permit. If you call and get the answering system, we are most likely on a call, so leave a message so we can call you back when we return. Please note, leaving a message does not constitute a permit. We will do our very best to get back to you as soon as we are able.

We ask that you use good judgement and keep practicing fire safety throughout the summertime. Check your fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and make sure your family knows how to get out of the home in case of a fire. Practice makes good habits that result in everybody getting out alive. We wish you the best summer yet and please feel free to stop in anytime and visit your firefighters. You are always welcome.

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, 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 Ends: November 30, 2022

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
Asst. Assessor	Heidi Guerra	asstassessor@monitortwp.org
Deputy Clerk	Pam Reinhardt	deputyclerk@monitortwp.org
Deputy Treasurer	Josie Hill	deputytreasurer@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

July-December 2022 Meeting Dates	
Township Board	
July 11	October 24
August 8	November 14
Sept 12	December 13
Planning Commission	
July 5	October 4
August 8	November 1
Sept 6	December 6
Zoning Board of Appeals	
July 21	October 20
August 18	November 17
Sept 15	December 15

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/>

Township Hours & Building Department Info		
Summer Office Hours	Mon-Wed	8am-12pm & 1 pm-6pm
	Thurs	8am-12pm & 1 pm-5pm
	Friday	Closed
Building Department	Mon-Thurs	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

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

Report From your Township Assessor, Beth L. Patterson

If you are trying to buy a house, brace yourself. Availability is getting low, and the number of people looking to buy a home remains high especially as the month gets warmer. New home construction affordability is diminishing amid rising costs and severe supply shortages. That said, many still do not see home sales slowing down anytime soon.

A reminder to our manufacturers in the Township, House Bills 5502-5506 were approved by the Governor on December 23, 2021. These Bills make changes to the Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property (EMPP), Essential Services Assessment (ESA), and Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (IFT). These changes do not take effect until the year 2023 (December 31, 2022). Updated guidance on these changes and forms will be published on the michigan.gov and monitortwp.org website later in 2022. Stay tuned.

Residents should also be aware that there are county-wide millages that expired in December of 2021 and renewal requests will be voted upon in the upcoming election later this year. The following is a list of the four important service renewals that may modify the millage rate which is levied on the winter 2022 tax bill. Keep in mind that at the time of this writing but, none of these have been approved by the Board of Commissioners yet are likely to be renewed.

Source	Winter 2021 Millage
Senior Citizen	0.5482
911/Central Dispatch	0.6977
Veterans	0.0996
Gypsy Moth	0.0996

County Ballot language, duration, and rate of taxation will be available later this year.

As a reminder the Assessor's Department provides an abundance of information for the public by maintaining subdivision plat maps and property record cards for each parcel of land and improvements. The department reviews and updates assessment records annually to reflect changes that occur to the individual properties. This office is also responsible for land divisions, boundary line adjustments and combinations, property transfer affidavits, principal residence exemption affidavits, and name and mailing address changes. If you have questions regarding your property records, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Beth L. Patterson, Assessor