

Monitor Township News

2483 Midland Road Bay City MI 48706

December 2022



Report from Township Supervisor, Terry M. Spencer

We have had a phenomenal year in our township, from businesses investments, infrastructure improvements (road and sewer), a continuing effort to make Monitor Township the best place to live in Bay County. Recently, we were under the spotlight at **Valley Tech Park**, where our DDA, (**Downtown Development Authority**), is located. It's not every day the President of the United States of America visits Monitor Township to shine light on our area and the largest investment in Bay County history (SK Siltron CSS). This investment has made national headlines and I am proud of the efforts our boards and staff have made to facilitate this. We are also excited for the \$15 million investment across the street with Northpoint Development, along with other investments in our Township large and small.

We are currently partnering with Bay County on including an additional 200 acres to our DDA to attract more high-tech businesses like SK Siltron CSS to our community. This roadmap is backed by a \$100,000.00 Feasibility Study Grant through Bay Futures Inc. to prepare this area for shovel ready sites for new businesses to move to.

Many have noticed an increase in road work in our township. Our board utilized a portion of our **ARPA** (American Rescue Plan) funds to increase our road budget in 2022 by \$300,000 to get some extra work completed and we also have been working on a Road Plan for future improvements.

The \$2.9 million Pumpstation project is wrapping up and happy to say it's another successful project that has been under budget. **Wastewater System Improvements 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.

The board has moved forward with developing a plan to begin cleaning and to perform regular maintenance of our Township Ditches. Years ago, this was abandoned. I am thankful our board has made the discussion to get it back on track.

Next year we will be starting the **Steih Park project**, which is a \$450,000.00 investment in Herbert W. Steih Park. The goal is to increase public access to the Kawkawlin River and make the many needed upgrades to the park. Details of the park improvements can be found online or requested at the township office.

In other Park news, we are in the process of developing a **Parks committee**. We are looking for input which direction to take our Monitor Parks and make the many needed updates. We are working on the committee structure and will be seeking individuals from the township to apply to the committee in the upcoming months.

2023 will be bringing some much-needed improvement to our Township Office. By springtime, construction for the Township Office/Hall roof replacement should be moving forward and our board has been discussing the many needed updates inside the building. Some of these discussions have been about modernizing our sign in front of the Township Office to a digital sign, updating the office to match the newly constructed Fire Station, installing air conditioning inside the hall, and much more.

I encourage everyone to check their winter **preparedness plan**, we never know what's ahead and it is always better to be prepared. In the theme of being prepared, we will be coordinating with the **Michigan State Police** to hold the public training event at the township hall. This **Active Assailant Training** will be free to the public. It is an unfortunate reality that we must face, whether it is at school, church, or the workplace, it is always better to be prepared for a situation and have a plan. Dates to be announced on this public event.

On behalf of my family at work and at home, I wish all our friends and neighbors of Monitor Township the blessed holiday! Cherish the moments that you have and surround yourself with loved ones. Please call or stop by the office anytime!

God bless you all and may God Bless America!

Terry M. Spencer, Supervisor

Report from Clerk, Linda K. Ferguson

Interested in Working an Election and Becoming an Election Inspector?

Are you over 16 years of age or a retired resident that has some free time to provide a much-needed service to your local community?

Monitor Township is always taking applications for election inspectors. No prior experience is necessary. All training will be provided. Applications are available at the Township Office. Apply Today!

Merry Christmas from your Clerk's office.

Linda K Ferguson, Clerk

Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike

Treasurer's Office Hours for 2022-2023: Monday thru Friday 9am – 12pm & 1pm – 4pm
Office Closed Dec 23 & 26th and 30th 2022 - Jan 2, Jan 16, and February 20 of 2023.

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 only. See our website www.monitortwp.org and click on Department, Taxes and there is a link for credit card payments. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS.** Winter Tax is due February 14, 2023. Payments must be in office by due date to avoid penalty and interest. After March 1 pay at Bay County office.

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 tax stubs 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 put your phone number on all tax stub pmts.

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, 2023.

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:

Greetings from your fire department. We have been very busy, and our run volume continues to grow. We are currently at 1238 runs to date. We have completed our annual hydrant flushing and fire hose testing. We recently hired a new firefighter by the name of Richard Roberts. He comes to us with lots of experience and a good commitment to his job and community. The Board of Trustees has worked with the fire dept. to bring our fulltime staff to six now. Our on-calls are still very active and continue to serve our community well. We would not be able to survive without our on-call staff. The entire staff has done an outstanding job and I could not be prouder of them. Their commitment to serve you and provide the best service is something to be said.

We still offer the 911 reflective address signs at a cost of \$15.00. We don't make any money on these; the cost pays for the material only. Please call the fire station at 989-684-6320 to order one. This sign really helps our first responders and firefighters locate your home quick and easy.

It is wintertime and the holiday season. Please remember to practice fire safety at all times. Please salt your steps and driveways to prevent a slip and fall that may cause serious injury. If you have a real tree, remember to water it often and keep open flames away from the tree. When dried out they burn very fast. Have your chimney checked and serviced to prevent chimney fires.

Make sure you have your furnaces inspected to prevent Carbon Monoxide build up in your home. You should have a CO alarm in your home to alert you if there is an issue. Check your batteries on you smoke detectors as well. In the event of a large snowfall, make sure to clean the snow away from your furnace vent on the outside. This will keep the CO from backing up into your home.

We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe and feel free to stop in and visit us.

Chief John R. Kramer

News you need

If you have questions or want any information about Monitor Township, please visit our website monitortwp.org. You will find just about everything you want to know about the Township. You can also report your street light outage, any road problem, or a zoning complaint.

If you have trash pickup issues (trash or yard waste) please call Waste Management at 866.797.9018 and follow the voice prompts. You will be able to report any issues you are experiencing. Also, each week you can place one large item out for pick up. Please do this before 6am on your trash day. It will be picked up the next day or day after with the bulk truck. You do not have to call the Township office to report the large item. Any household hazardous material disposal please contact 989.895.4006 ext 3 or visit our website for alternative options.

Follow us on Facebook, Monitor Charter Township. This will keep you informed on new and exciting happenings in Monitor Township and Bay County.

Happy 2023!!!!



Happy Holidays, from your Monitor Township officials & Blaze.

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, 2023. Pavilion Reservations Begin: **January 4, 2023.**

2023 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 3, 2023

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
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 2023 Meeting Dates

Township Board

January 9	February 13
March 13	April 10
May 8	June 12

Planning Commission

January 10	February 7
March 7	April 4
May 2	June 6

Zoning Board of Appeals

January 19	February 16
March 16	April 20
May 18	June 15

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-4pm
Building Department	8am-12pm Monday-Thursday
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

Looking forward to 2023 we have a few procedural changes that have been enacted for the next assessment year. It may come as no surprise to anyone that due to the rate of inflation the taxable increase established by the State of Michigan will be 5% - which is a rate multiplier of 1.05. Although the CPI (Consumer Price Index) was established at 1.079 (or 7.9%), due to the Headlee Amendment, the increase in the taxable value of property not transferred is capped at the lesser of inflation or 5%. In some way we can all be thankful that the increase is capped however, a 5% increase in taxable value is also something we have never realized and it will be very difficult on many taxpayers.

Those who have purchased property in the Township in 2022 will most likely be hit the hardest with this increase to taxable value as their new home has now "uncapped" and the previous owners capped taxable value 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 SEV). This is what is meant by "taxable value uncapping". Bottom line is your taxable value may now be different than your neighbors. Their taxable value may have been capped many years before yours, so it would have no correlation with the current market and is not comparable. The Assessed Value is the factor to be used when comparing properties for current value in the market. With that said, if your Assessed Value (AV) is doubled and it appears to be much higher than a current appraisal that you may have obtained when purchasing your new home in 2022, do not hesitate to appeal your assessment at the 2023 March Board of Review. Unfortunately, due to the real estate market which of late has demonstrated absurd selling prices, this may not be an option for many new homeowners.

Call it a two-fold setback. You are getting hit hard by inflation, and now inflation is being used to calculate how much you will be paying in property taxes. In other news, an increase of 1.3088 to the millage rate from 2021 to 2022 has also been voted in by taxpayers of Bay County. Depending on your taxable value, this increase may be noticeable on your 2022 Winter Tax bill which is due by February 14, 2023. For example, if you have a \$100,000 taxable value you can expect an increase of roughly \$131.00 annually.

Despite of all this we should be thankful and grateful. Cherish your family and friends and we can all ride the storm out together. Peace and joy to you and your family this holiday season.

Beth L. Fletcher-Patterson, Assessor/MAAO/MCPPE, Deputy Supervisor
