

# Monitor Township



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

December 2023

## *Report from Township Supervisor, Terry M. Spencer*

Many of you are aware that a few years ago, our Township Office developed a new **Webpage**, [www.monitortwp.org](http://www.monitortwp.org). In addition to the webpage - that is more user friendly, a new **Digital Sign**, and new **Facebook page** (Monitor *Charter Township*) has been implemented. We are always attempting to get as much information out to our Monitor Township citizens as we can. There has not been a time that more information has been put out from our Township than now. Our next exploration will be with streaming our meetings from the **Newly Remodeled Boardroom**. I anticipate this will be up-and-going by the spring and the intention is have all board meetings available to view via online. I encourage people to attend our meetings, but this will be another way to view the business occurring at the Township. **Please follow our social media and the webpage.**

Most of the construction is completed in the **Township Office/Hall/Lobby/Board Room**. We have had a great response from the community regarding the updates to the Township facilities, thank you!

With the **Hall Remodel Project** completed, I have proposed to the Township Board a restructuring of our fees with our Hall Rentals to include a discount for people who live in the Township. An update of the Hall Rental Fee's is available at the office/online which includes a **25% discount for Township Residents**. Please consider visiting and utilizing our newly remodeled Township Hall that now has air conditioning.

Most of the recent updates were funded with **ARPA** (America Rescue Plan Act) funds which we must use by the end of 2024. Some of the APRA funds are being directed towards the remodeling of our **Herbert Steih Memorial Park Project** with a majority coming from grants and private donations. The Park will be closed from December 2023 until May 2024, during the construction. It is a beautiful design, and it is going to enhance the park users experience! In other Park news, the **Monitor Township Park** play area was updated with approx. 39,000 pounds of rubber playground mulch and the **Park Entrance** is scheduled to be repaved in the spring. We will be putting information out as all these projects progress and an opportunity for **Spring Cleanup Projects** will be announced for anyone who would like to get involved or has a student(s) who needs volunteer hours.

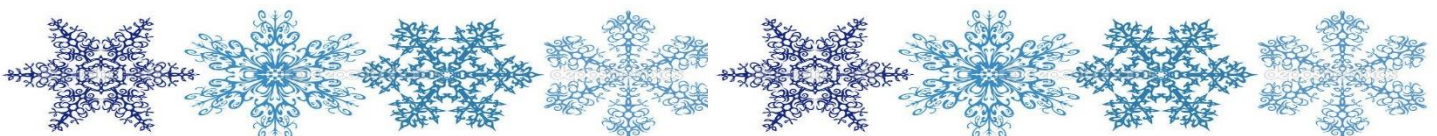
We have received a lot of questions regarding recent action through our state senate, which was signed by the Governor, involving legislation which **bypasses local Township Planning & Zoning** in reference to Wind Turbines/Solar Farms. This legislation was fast-tracked, and the State politicians claim it takes away the red tape from energy projects. The red tape they are referring to is our voice, the people who live here and the elected local Township Government. They took away your voice and now are giving local decision-making authority to Lansing. Please do your research and see how your local elected state officials voted and we will see what is to come...

Next year will be an interesting driving year in the Township. MDOT is scheduled for continuing projects on **Mackinaw Road/US-10 and the Bay County Road Commissions 3 Mile Road Project**. We will be organizing a public meeting in the next several months to discuss the layout of this project with the Bay County Road Commission (BCRC). Thank you to our BCRC for their great service and dedication in our community! 3 Mile Rd is going to be a huge project and the BCRC has worked hard to get past the obstacles. In more positive news, I would like to thank the Bay County Board of Commissioners (BCBC) for working to continue our **Monitor Township DDA** (Downtown Development Authority) which was scheduled to sunset in 2026. While details of the negotiations are still in the process, I feel that the BCBC is working with us as a partner to bring job growth and economic development to our community. In other road news, the Board approved a resolution to adopt a **Road Millage renewal proposal to be placed on the Aug. 2024 Primary Election Ballot**. While our Township owned roads are not perfect, they are the best in the county, and we need to continue with our millage to have the funds to keep our roads the best they can be. More information will be announced after the March Board of Review.

Recently, I was honored to be appointed to the **Bay County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority** and elected to the Chairperson position. Our first project was the NW corner of Euclid Ave./Salzburg Rd. Working with State of MI EGLE, **we have secured \$300,000.00 in grant funds**. It will pay for removal/disposal of contaminated soil and for a vapor mitigation system for a new business. More information on other investment (Big & Small) to be announced later.

Lastly, be prepared for winter and whatever other challenges this world may bring in the future. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for a variety of preparedness information. Please feel free to call or stop in the office anytime if you have a concern. On behalf of my family (Sara, Cole, and our Sailor Ethan (currently stationed in Texas)), we wish you all a happy holiday and a great new year. God bless you all and may God Bless America!

**Terry M. Spencer, Supervisor**



*Report from Township Clerk, Linda K. Ferguson*

**ELECTION NEWS**

The Election Dates for 2024 are:

**February 27, 2024** – Presidential Primary Election

**August 6, 2024** – Primary Election

**November 5, 2024** – General Election

There are several changes and options for the way Michigan voters may cast their ballots in 2024:

**Absentee Ballot and Permanent Absentee Ballot List**

In 2022, Michigan Voters approved the option to receive an Absentee Ballot by completing an application once and receiving an absentee ballot for all elections moving forward. When receiving an application for absentee ballot, make sure to review your options. If you feel that the Permanent Absentee Ballot is right for you, complete the application by checking the box to join the Permanent Absentee Ballot List. Make sure to sign and date where appropriate. This is not mandatory and may not be appropriate for each voters' situation. You may request in writing, which must include your signature, to be removed from this list at any time. If you are going to temporarily be away for an upcoming election, it is your responsibility to notify the Clerk's Office to send the absentee ballot to a different address. Ballots are non-forwardable through postal mail. If you move within the State of Michigan and update your voter registration address, your status on the Permanent Absentee Ballot List will remain with you at your new Michigan location.

**EARLY Voting: New for 2024**

Voters have the right to vote and place their completed ballot into the secure tabulator during the nine days of early voting beginning the second Saturday before each State and/or Federal Election. This includes bringing your completed absentee ballot to the Early Voting site. The Bay County Clerk is hosting Early Voting for all Bay County registered voters and will take place at the Bay County Community Center from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each of these nine days.

**In Person voting:**

In-Person voting on Election Day will be at the **Monitor Township Hall for all precincts.**

**Consolidation of Precincts:**

Due to the recent changes in precinct size limits precincts 2 & 4 will now be combined to make precinct 2 and precincts 3 & 5 will be combined into precinct 3. Voters in these precincts will be receiving a new ID card showing the new precinct number and new polling location, hopefully by the end of the year.

**Important Notice**

Please note that election mail will **not** be forwarded. If you will be away from your Michigan address and wish to have an application for an Absentee Ballot mailed to you, please contact the office. Absent voter applications will be mailed approximately 40 days prior to the Feb. election. **After the February election the permanent voter application list will no longer be maintained, and it will be up to the voter to request an application to vote absentee.** An application must be received before a ballot can be issued unless you are on the permanent ballot list.

For more information visit: [MI.GOV/VOTE](http://MI.GOV/VOTE)

**Blessings to all and Merry Christmas!**

*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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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.

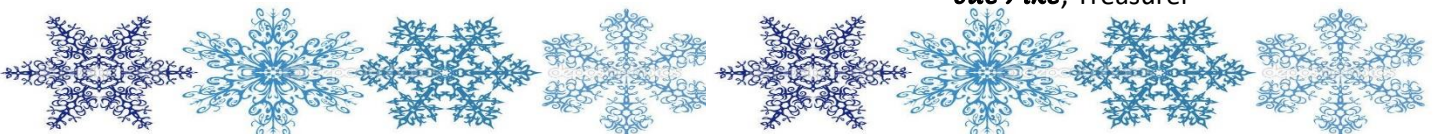
If your taxes are in **Escrow**, we mail you a copy of your tax for income tax purposes.

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 Happy New Year! It is a pleasure to serve you!

*Sue Pike, Treasurer*



*Report from your Fire Chief, John Kramer*

We here at the fire department have been very busy. We have completed our fall hydrant flushing and pumping to maintain the hydrants. We are preparing for the winter weather and hope everyone drives careful and slows down when the roads become bad. Please take your time and have patience while driving. Please help us out by clearing decorations, plants, and snow from a hydrant in your yard. It makes it much easier to find them in case of an emergency. We really appreciate you helping us out.

Please make sure you clean your furnace filter and have it inspected to make sure it is running properly. When you celebrate Thanksgiving, please make sure you practice good fire safety measures. Never cook a turkey in a propane fryer inside your home or garage. Follow the directions and have a fire extinguisher ready to use in case it catches fire.

Please clean your fireplaces and have them inspected regularly to avoid a chimney fire. Chimney fires cause damage to the mortar and brick and can allow the fire and smoke to escape into your attic and may cause a fire.

Christmas is just around the corner. Please remember if you get a natural tree to water it regularly and to keep open flames away. Dried out trees burn very rapidly. Decorations make the tree look great but please check your lights to make sure the wires are not frayed or bare. Make sure your tree is not too close to your fireplace. Woods burns and sparks fly and can land in or near the tree.

As always please call for a burn permit when burning a brush pile. We do offer free smoke detectors and CO alarms. We are partnering with the State Fire Marshall who is providing the detectors through a grant. They must be installed by your fire department so call if you need or have questions on this program. Our number is 989-684-6320.

We want to take this time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe and always practice fire safety.

**Greetings from your Fire Department!**

*Chief John R. Kramer*



**Township Meeting Dates: (Dec-June 2024)**

**Regular Board:**

- January 8, 2024 at 5pm
- February 12, 2024 at 5pm
- March 11, 2024 at 5pm
- April 8, 2024 at 5pm
- May 13, 2024 at 5pm
- June 10, 2024 at 5pm

**Planning Commission:**

- January 9, 2024 6pm
- February 6, 2024 6pm
- March 5, 2024 6pm
- April 2, 2024 7pm
- May 7, 2024 7pm
- June 4, 2024 7pm

**Zoning Board of Appeals:**

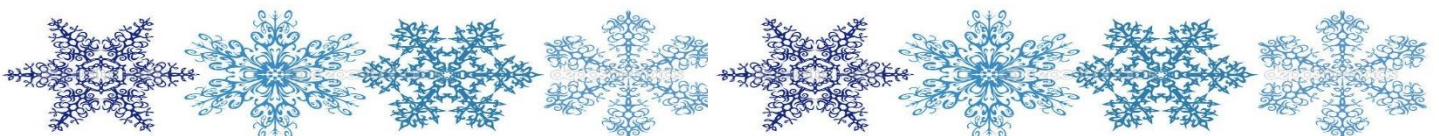
- January 18, 2024 7pm
- February 15, 2024 7pm
- March 21, 2024 7pm
- April 18, 2024 7pm
- May 16, 2024 7pm
- June 20, 2024 7pm

**Township Elected Officials & Administrative Staff**

|                  |                |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| 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   | Jessica Herek  | <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>   |
| Building Asst.   | Carol Goodwin  | <a href="mailto:building@monitortwp.org">building@monitortwp.org</a>                 |
| Admin Sec.       | Diane Peters   | <a href="mailto:office@monitortwp.org">office@monitortwp.org</a>                     |
| Trustees:        |                |  |
|                  | Gary Brandt    | <a href="mailto:trusteebrandt@monitortwp.org">trusteebrandt@monitortwp.org</a>       |
|                  | Earl Arnold    | <a href="mailto:trusteearnold@monitortwp.org">trusteearnold@monitortwp.org</a>       |
|                  | Tina McCulloch | <a href="mailto:trusteemcculloch@monitortwp.org">trusteemcculloch@monitortwp.org</a> |
|                  | Bob Walsh      | <a href="mailto:trusteewalsh@monitortwp.org">trusteewalsh@monitortwp.org</a>         |

**Township Hours & Building Department Info:**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Office Hours:         | 8am-6pm Mon.-Wed.                          |
|                       | 8am-5pm Thursday                           |
|                       | Closed Friday                              |
| Tax Collection Hours: | 9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm                         |
| Assessing Hours:      | 8am-12pm & 1pm-4pm                         |
| Building Dept.:       | 8am-12pm Mon.-Thurs.                       |
|                       | Dave DeGrow Building Inspector             |
|                       | David Rochow Zoning Enforcement            |
|                       | Frank Bryden Electrical Inspector          |
|                       | Dell Bedford Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector |



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2483 E. Midland Road  
Bay City MI 48706-9469

**Have a happy, healthy &  
safe 2024!**

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

As we go through the holiday season Assessors in Michigan are preparing for another round of annual assessing. This time of year, we are notified of the changes for 2024 and most importantly what the Consumer Price Index (CPI) will be. Unfortunately, because of the continued inflation we will be all be experiencing another 5% increase to our taxable value. Coupled with a higher millage rate, this increase will most likely be noticeable. What exactly is CPI? Starting in 1995, your property taxes were calculated on the taxable value and the increase is calculated using the prior year taxable value multiplied by the CPI or 5% whichever is lower. Unless there was a transfer of ownership then the assessed value becomes the taxable value. Any additions or losses to the property can affect the taxable value.

The calculation of the Inflation Rate Multiplier is set in statute in MCL 211.34d: (l) "Inflation rate" means the ratio of the general price level for the state fiscal year ending in the calendar year immediately preceding the current year divided by the general price level for the state fiscal year ending in the calendar year before the year immediately preceding the current year. (f) "General price level" means the annual average of the 12 monthly values for the United States consumer price index for all urban consumers as defined and officially reported by the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics.

Further information regarding the calculation of the Inflation Rate Multiplier can be found on Michigan State Tax Commission's website and is Bulletin #16 of 2023.

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

