



Monitor Township

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Phone: (989) 684-7203 Fax: (989) 684-9234



Report from Township Supervisor, Terry M. Spencer

Many of you will notice the new updates at our **Township Office/Township Hall**.

Recently, the roof was repaired, and the installation of the new **Digital Sign** has been completed. Such a great response from our new digital sign that will increase our ability to communicate meetings, events, and township related business to our residents.

The **Township Office/Hall** is currently being remodeled, interior/exterior painting, to match the new fire station, asbestos removal, new flooring to the hall/lobby, and the addition of air conditioning in the hall. We are also investigating the cost to have a functional Board room for the Regular Board meetings, ZBA, Planning Commission, etc. The goal is having a modern board room with proper seating for our boards/residents, speaker/sound equipment, and projection abilities for presentations. As of today, these updates have been paid for by utilizing ARPA funds, which must be used by 2024 and these updates are to no cost to our Monitor Township taxpayers.

Our Township is in the process of updating our **Master Plan**, which has not been updated since 2013. Information will be sent out by survey to get public input on this update. **Please respond to the upcoming Master Plan survey.** This is important to provide feedback concerning the future growth of the Township.

Recently, the 2.9 million **Pump Station Project** was wrapped up and we are pleased to announce it was another project that was under budget. This proactive project will ensure our pump stations will be operating at top performance.

Later this summer, the **Herbert W. Steih Park Project** will be moving forward. The project which originally was a \$450,000.00 investment secured through donations and grants went up significantly since the original cost projection (like everything else in our world), but our Board of Trustees stepped up to the plate (utilizing **ARPA funds**) to ensure the project will continue without shortfall. The goal is to increase access to the Kawkawlin River to the public 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 **Monitor Park** news, we are looking to fix/replace the entryway at the park, exploring security camera options, and repairing other items that are in need of repair. Both of our parks are beautiful areas, and we need our residents to contact us when they see items that need to be repaired and updated.

In **DDA (Downtown Development Authority)** news. We are currently negotiating terms with the Bay County Board for a 30-year continuance of our DDA that was to sunset in 2026. With the expansion of approx. 200 acres to our DDA, we will continue to work proactively with Bay Future Inc to encourage businesses to come to our community.

On behalf of my family, (Sara, Cole, and Ethan), and our Monitor Township work family, we wish everyone a great summer! We are proud to announce our eldest son Ethan, recently graduated from Western high school and has enlisted in the United States Navy (Hooyah!). Good luck to all our recent graduates out there. It is a reminder of how quickly time goes by and the importance of all our families. Please take note of the meeting dates, get involved, and please stop in the office or call anytime. God bless you all and may God bless America!

Terry M. Spencer, Supervisor

**Monitor Township Fire Department is accepting applications for paid On-Call Firefighters.
Applications can be picked up at the Township Office or online.**

Report from Township Clerk, Linda K. Ferguson

Proposal 2 of 2022 "Promote the Vote" passed at the November 8th, 2022 General Election. It will amend the state constitution to add provisions in regard to elections.



- Recognize fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct;
- Require military or overseas ballots be counted if postmarked by election day;
- Provide voter right to verify identity with photo ID or signed statement;
- Provide voter right to single application to vote absentee in all elections;
- Require state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes, and postage for absentee applications and ballots;
- Provide that only election officials may conduct post-election audits;
- Require nine days of early in -person voting (*a minimum of 72 hours - only required for State and Federal Elections*);
- Allow donation to fund election, which must be disclosed;
- Require canvass boards certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast.

Early voting is required for State and Federal elections and can be consolidated between the townships, the city and the county clerk. The Bay County Clerk is currently working with all the Clerks of the county to do just that - if their jurisdiction wishes to participate. The costs will be split among all participants - this is a huge cost-savings in comparison to having to staff and run an early voting precinct for one jurisdiction for those 9 extra days. If you would like to be trained as an election inspector for the upcoming elections, please contact the County Clerk, Kathleen Zanotti at ZanottiK@baycounty.net.

Another change is that in addition to maintaining the permanent absentee voter list through the Qualified Voter file, you will also have the option to be on a permanent ballot list. Many of the details are yet to be worked out at the State level. One of these is how they will provide the postage for both the absentee applications and ballots.

What hasn't changed is the fact that if you are on the permanent absentee voter list you will still receive your application to return - with signature for a ballot. The form may be changed to allow for the selection of being on a permanent ballot list in the future. Residents will still be able to vote on Election Day at the same precinct as last November - *if you haven't moved*. I wanted to share as much information as we have at this time. Will put updates on the township webpage and the next newsletter as this all progresses.

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 all-Day 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 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. 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, EFT checks too.

I would like to share some information with you for the upcoming 2023 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 .50 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, 2024. 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, 2023.

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 4th. Have a wonderful summer!

Sue Pike, Treasurer

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer

Greetings from the Fire Department. It has been very busy already as we have logged 510 runs to date. First and foremost, I just want to let everyone know that because of the current road construction projects that are happening in our township and around the area, this will cause some delays in our response time. We will do our best to negotiate this until completion.

Burn permits have been in demand and we are not allowed to issue if the DNR has determined that it is too dry to allow permits to be issued. Please realize that the ground may be wet or moist, but the top vegetation is very dry, and we have experienced a few brush fires in our township and county. You may call the fire dept. at 989-684-6320 to obtain a permit. If you would like to save time, please go to the DNR website or search DNR Burn Permits and it will bring up the state of Michigan. If Bay County is brown, no permits can be issued. If we are orange, we can issue permits. This site is updated every ten minutes. As a reminder refuse and grass are not allowed to be burned at any time. If you plan on burning a ditch line, you must obtain a permit before doing so.

You will see your firefighters out and about throughout the summer. We are doing maintenance on our hydrants. We ask that if you have a hydrant in your yard or on your property, please take the time to mow around it and keep the weeds low so in the event there is a need we can find them quickly. Please use caution when driving by them.

We still have the green reflective 911 address signs. They are \$15.00 and will help us find your address more quickly. You may call or stop by and order one for your residence.

As always, we welcome any and all visitors to visit us at the fire station. Our entrance is now on the north side of the building. Have a great summer.

Chief John R. Kramer

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	Jessica Herek	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
Trustees:	Gary Brandt	trusteebrandt@monitortwp.org
	Earl Arnold	trusteearnold@monitortwp.org
	Tina McCulloch	trusteemcculloch@monitortwp.org
	Bob Walsh	trusteewalsh@monitortwp.org

July-December 2023 Meeting Dates

Township Board	
July 10	Oct 16
Aug 14	Nov 13
Sept 11	Dec 11
Planning Commission	
July 11	Oct 3
Aug 1	Nov 7
Sept 5	Dec 5
Zoning Board of Appeals	
July 20	Oct 19
Aug 17	Nov 16
Sept 21	Dec 21

Township Hours & Building Department Info

Summer Office Hours	Mon-Wed	8am-12pm & 1pm-6pm
	Thursday	8am-12pm & 1pm-5pm
	Friday	Closed
Building Department	Mon-Thurs	8am-12pm
Dave Degrow	Building Inspector	
David Rochow	Zoning Administrator	
Frank Bryden	Electrical Inspector	
Dell Bedford	Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector	

**Charter Township of
Monitor**

Bay City MI 48706-9469

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

Report From your Township Assessor, Beth L. Patterson

Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit Resident Request

If anyone who resides in Monitor Township have owned their home since 2000 or prior, we are asking that you re-file the Principal Residence Exemption with the Township Assessing offices as soon as possible. Previous exemption affidavits contained a request for a complete Social Security Number which is no longer authorized. Although this type of information is protected under the Freedom of Information Act, this required form is kept on file permanently. Once a new affidavit is recorded, we will be destroying the previous filing containing this confidential information that is kept in the property parcel folder. For those that have resided in Monitor since the 1990's and earlier it is especially crucial that we receive a new PRE-Affidavit as we are finding that when the parcels were computerized the PRE exemption was automatically added and we may not have an actual signed form on file. The State of Michigan requires the homeowner to declare their principal residence by completing this form to obtain the exemption from 18 mills of local school operating tax. More information including the PRE form can be found on the State of Michigan website at: <https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/principal>. Bay County is approaching an audit year in 2024 so we would be disappointed to see someone have their exemption rescinded by the Department of Treasury because they neglected to file (claim) the exemption. For your convenience, we have included the Affidavit in the June 2023 Newsletter. Please disregard if this does not apply to you.