

Monitor Township News



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www.monitortwp.org

June 2017



Report from Township Supervisor, Ken Malkin



As a new Supervisor, one of the most challenging aspects of my new position has been the road projects. This is especially true for the subdivisions where we are making an effort to resolve long

standing drainage issues through the creation of special assessment districts as part of the road construction. During this process the township received feedback from residents that a closer look was needed with these drainage projects before proceeding. This occurred both before and after I took over as Supervisor. I am thankful for that. In the end, it will make these drainage and road projects more successful.

We just received bids on a number of roads including Kawkawlin Village, Haberland Subdivision, Ott Road, portions of Wilder Road and Chip Road. We hope to start these projects soon. You can call the township to see if your portion of the road is included. We plan to be bidding out the subdivision projects later this year.

I have also been busy handling ordinance complaints. I enjoy being in a position to address the concerns of our residents. However, I have to learn that as hard as I may try, I cannot resolve all of them. I also need to learn to delegate much of that responsibility to our ordinance enforcement officers who were hired for that purpose. As part of that responsibility, I am currently working on a Dangerous Buildings Ordinance that I believe will offer our residents some additional protection.

By the way, don't be surprised if you see work being done at the Monitor Township Park. The township was the recipient of a grant that will offer many improvements to the current park.



Report from Clerk, Cindy L. Kowalski

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 currently taking applications for election inspectors. No prior experience is necessary. All training will be provided. Applications are available at the Township Offices Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

Involve yourself in the election process

APPLY TODAY



Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike



Tax Collection Hours are Monday through Friday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Closed 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm for lunch.



Summer Taxes will be mailed out **June 30th**. Please be sure to review carefully for accuracy. Note: USPS will not forward your tax bill, so for you snow birds please stop in to see the assessor prior to June 30th to have your address changed. If you have not received your tax bill by July 15th, please call our office to find out to whom and where they were mailed out to. Please be aware that Michigan law states that 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 1st of July and on the 1st of December of each year. If you do not receive a tax bill, please call our office to verify your address and to request a duplicate.

A note to all...we have spoken with the US Postal Carrier and the mail (due to various cost cuts), will have a turn-around time of 2 to 4 days. Please keep this in mind for those of you who make payment close to the last day due to avoid late charges.

I would like to share some additional information with you for the upcoming **2017 Summer Tax Season**. The Summer Tax bill will include the: **State Education Tax, County Operating Tax and Bay City Public School Tax**. Summer millage total is 32.7157. If you are 100% Homestead, your summer millage total will be 14.7157 (Continued on Page 2)...

(Continued from Page 1 – Treasurer) 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¢ ea.**

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, 2018**. As a courtesy, we have mailed all those who were deferred in the prior year a new application to fill out. **NOTE: 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 <http://www.michigan.gov/treasury> TYPE "471" into the search bar. Applications will be accepted from July 1 through September 14, 2017.

As always **Cat and Dog Licenses** will be available at the tax window. Please remember we must have your rabies certificate to issue your pet a license.



Offices Closed: July 4, Sept 4, Oct. 9, Nov 10, 23, 24th

Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer

Spring Has Sprung! We are all looking forward to cleaning our yards up and getting ready for those summer barbeques. Here are quick safety tips that will help you along the way. #1: Please remember to keep your grill at least 10 feet away from your house. Heat from the grill can cause the siding to heat up and catch fire. If you use a charcoal grill make sure the coals are completely out before throwing them out. The best thing is to let them sit for a day or so and then stir them up to make sure there are no hot embers down deep. #2: When cleaning your yards, remember you must obtain a burn permit from the fire department before your burn your brush pile. This also includes burn barrels and large pits. Burning without a permit will result in fines and suspension of your burning privileges. Please be respectful of your neighbors and control your smoke. The permits are free and can be obtained at the fire department anytime. **Important:** If the DNR issues a **No Burn Ban** we **will not issue permits** until it is lifted.

Residents: if you **do not have** a 911 reflective sign with your address we ask that you consider having one made for your house. They are only \$15.00 and we make them here at the station. Although not mandatory, it saves the department a lot of time when we can read the numbers during the day and at night. If you choose not to purchase one, please make sure your house numbers are on your mailbox and large enough to read from the

street. In addition, if you have numbers on your house make sure they are large enough to read from the roadway. Written numbers are very difficult to read and can delay us in finding your home. These signs are sold at cost and can be ordered by calling (989) 684-6320 to order.

We are in the process of flushing the fire hydrants again this spring. This is mandatory, and is completed twice a year. You may see a slight discoloration in your water at first, but will clear up by letting the water run a bit. Flushing will be complete in the next couple weeks. It is also much appreciated if you notice a hydrant leaking or water gathering around it, please contact us immediately so we can inspect it and, if needed, contact the County DPW to have the hydrant repaired as quickly as possible. Your help is greatly appreciated!

We would like to thank everyone who attended our pancake breakfast this year. We served over 1400 people. A new township record! Your continued support and friendship is very much appreciated. Please stop by anytime to visit the station and see your fire equipment. Children are always welcome to enjoy the trucks!

Lastly, the fire department would like to wish everyone an enjoyable summer and remember to always practice fire safety habits!

Chief John R. Kramer



**Report from the Sheriff Department
Deputy Eric Anthony & Ryan Christie**

If you are planning to go on vacation, you can pick up a house check request at the township office. Deputies will check the exterior of your residence while you are on your trip. Also remember to leave the phone number of a local contact person (neighbor, family member or friend) in case there is a problem at the residence. It is a good idea to leave a key with the contact person in case entry to your house is needed. If you have any questions, please contact the Sheriff Department at (989) 895-4050.



Sanitary Sewer Rate

Residents will soon be seeing a small increase in your sanitary sewer bill. On average the increase will amount to about \$2.95 per quarter. There are two reasons for this increase. First, our expenses have been exceeding our revenues. We had to make up the difference out of our savings in the sewer fund. Secondly, we received a grant to review our sanitary sewer system which resulted in a recommendation to make a number of repairs. We are addressing those repairs in a manner that will make sure that our sanitary sewer system continues to function properly and will also avoid any substantial rate increases in the future.



Trash 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.**



Have a large item to be picked up? One large item a week may be put out on the same day as your trash. A separate truck handles large pickups and in most cases the item is picked up the day after your regular trash pickup day.

Waste Management's number is 1-800-796-9696

Yard Waste Reminder: Twigs and branches that are less than 3 inches in diameter must be in bundles less than 4 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter.



Monitor Township Park is located at 4585 3 Mile Road between Midland and N. Union and is open from 8 a.m. until sunset through September 30. The pavilion restroom locks are now automated, opening at 8:00 am and closing at 9:00 pm. Portables are onsite, and available 24/7 for your convenience. Please if you see any type of destruction or misuse of park property, please report it immediately by calling 911. As an added benefit to our residents, we will be adding doggie waste stations this year. Lost items are taken to the Township office. Reservations for the pavilion and ball diamonds are taken at the office. Remember to please keep your pets on a leash and **pick up after your dog** whether you are in the park or walking down a street.



For proper disposal of **Hazardous Materials**, call the Bay County Health Department at (989) 895-4006 or check their website at www.baycounty-mi.gov/health

Township Hours & Building Department Info

Office Hours: 9 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm
 Tax Collection Hours: 9 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm
 Assessor* Tod Fackler: 8 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm
 Wednesday & Thursday
 Building Department 8 am -12 pm
 Carol Goodwin..... Bldg. & Zoning Admin. Assistant
 Dave DeGrow..... Building Inspector-In the Field
 David Rochow..... Zoning Enforcement- In the Field
 Electrical Inspector
 Frank Bryden..... (989) 894-5053...Direct
 Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector
 Dell Bedford..... (989) 272-5108...Direct

2017 June – December Meeting Dates

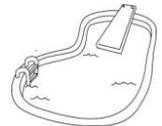
Township Board	2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month
June 12 th and 26 th	July 10 th and 24 th
August 14 th and 28 th	September 11 th and 25 th
October 23 rd	November 13 th
December 11 th	
Planning Commission	1 st Tuesday of each month
June 6 th	July 5 th
August 1 st	September 5 th
October 3 rd	November 7 th
December 5 th	
Zoning Board of Appeals*	3 rd Thursday of each month
June 15 th	July 20 th
August 17 th	September 21 st
October 15 th	November 16 th
December 21 st	*ONLY AS NEEDED



PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE HOMEOWNER...
KEEP YOUR LAWN MOWED AND JUNK FREE.

Public Notice – Pool Fence Height Moratorium

As adopted by the Monitor Township Board of Trustees at the May 8, 2017 Regular Meeting, A moratorium was established and approved to suspend enforcement of the five (5) ft. minimum fence/protective enclosure height surrounding a swimming pool as specified in Section 4 of Swimming Pool Ordinance #18. In doing so, the pool enclosure requirement will default to a four (4) ft requirement as regulated by the Michigan Residential Code.



Volunteers for Fire Station Committee

Monitor Township is currently seeking volunteers to serve on a committee to address the needs of our fire station. Fire Chief John Kramer addressed the board on May 8th about the physical needs of the current Fire Station. He advised the board that the needs of the station should be addressed. The township board voted unanimously to seek volunteers for a committee to explore alternative solutions. This will not be a short term commitment. We expect that it may take a number of years to address all the needs and the challenges that could face us. If you are willing to serve, please let us know as soon as possible. We would like to have a committee in place by the end of June. You can call us at 684-7203 or respond to the link on our webpage at www.monitortwp.org.

Ken Malkin, Supervisor

Report from your Township Assessor, Tod Fackler



With the goal of ease of accessibility, accuracy, and fairness of your township assessing office, I will be out canvassing the community updating pictures, verifying the accuracy of the record cards and measuring new construction. If you would like your property assessment reviewed, this would be a good time to get it done. Just call me at the office (989) 684-7203 and we can schedule an appointment to have a review conducted (measuring and checking condition).

As always, for your assurance and protection, I will be wearing a pictured identification badge verifying that I am the Assessor with the Charter Township of Monitor.

As a reminder, I am in the township three (3) days a week with Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, being my regular office days, the third day varies. Hope you all have a safe and delightful summer.



Did You Know?... Local Ordinance
 [Chapter III, Section 3.21] **PROHIBITS**

the keeping of Livestock; including
 Chickens and Ducks, in Residential Zoning
 Districts of Monitor Township.



Reminder: Golf carts, ATVs, snowmobiles, and other non-street legal motor vehicles are not allowed to be ridden on the roadways, road shoulders and subdivisions in Monitor Township.

Township Elected Officials & Administrative Staff

Supervisor supervisor@monitortwp.org	Ken Malkin
Clerk clerk@monitortwp.org	Cindy Kowalski
Treasurer treasurer@monitortwp.org	Sue Pike
Deputy Clerk	Linda Ferguson
Deputy Treasurer	Josie Hill
Assessor assessor@monitortwp.org	Tod Fackler, MAAO, MCPPE
Building Department Assistant building@monitortwp.org	Carol Goodwin
Trustee	Gary A. Brandt
Trustee	Elaine Kochany
Trustee	Bill Reder
Trustee	Bob Walsh
Administrative Secretary officemanager@monitortwp.org	Beth L. Patterson