

Monitor Township

News



2483 Midland Rd, Bay City, MI 48706
Phone 684-7203 Fax: 684-9234
www.monitortwp.org

June 2014



Notes from Gary A. Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor

Are you happy with your roads?

As you know, the local roads and the subdivision streets in Monitor Township are getting worse every year. If Monitor Township residents want better local roads and subdivision streets, we need your help. For the following reasons the Monitor Township Board has proposed a road millage of 1.95 mills to be placed on the August 5 Primary Election.

Charter Township of Monitor Road Millage Proposal

Shall the 15 mill tax limitation on general ad valorem taxes within Charter Township of Monitor imposed under Article IX, Section 6, of the Michigan Constitution be increased for Charter Township of Monitor by 1.95 mills (a mill equals \$1.00 per \$1000.00 of taxable value) for the period of ten (10) years, December 1, 2014 through December 1, 2024 inclusive, for the purpose of construction, maintenance and improvement of the local public roads in Charter Township of Monitor; and shall the Township levy an increase in millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$779,134.00?

If the millage passes, all local roads and subdivision streets will be treated equally. If it costs \$150,000 to \$200,000 to resurface one mile of local road, Monitor Township will provide that amount to a subdivision for one mile of street for chip and seal. If the subdivision wants asphalt instead of chip and seal, the subdivision would have to pay the difference in cost.

Monitor Township has to pay for all major repair to local roads as the BCRC only pays for patching the roads and snow removal. Presently, Monitor Township budgets \$300,000

from the General Fund to pay for repairs of about 64 miles of local roads. With the cost of \$100,000 to \$125,000 to get one mile of road ready for chip and seal and \$50,000 for two layers of chip and seal, the total cost to resurface one mile is close to \$200,000. With the cost close to \$200,000 to resurface one mile of road and a \$300,000 budget, we should be able to resurface all 64 miles of local roads every 42.6 years!

This year the BCRC proposes that we single chip and seal Baxman Rd. (Midland to US-10), double chip and seal North Union (4 Mile to Mackinaw), Chip Rd. (Fraser to 7 Mile), and split the cost on Townline 14 with Kawkawlin Township for a cost of \$142,890. Skip patch and repairs on North Union, Fraser, 8 Mile and 600 tons of seal to use on the work for a cost of \$133,842. BCRC also recommends that Monitor Township crush, add gravel and shape 1.79 miles on Old Beaver and North Union for a cost of \$235,504. It would cost \$512,236 to do the recommended work that BCRC has listed plus the BCRC recommends that Fisher Rd. (4 Mile to Mackinaw) and 8 Mile (Hotchkiss to US-10) be turned back to gravel.

The choice is up to you!



Notes from Margaret Ford, Monitor Township Assessor

Weather is finally cooperating to some extent so I will be out in our neighborhoods, hopefully, touching base with you. It is this time of year that I can make sure what we have on our assessment cards is accurate. So many times people remove or add things and we do not have it on or off the record, whichever the case may be.

Earlier this year a resident asked me about Special Assessments. Scott Brown in an article for Michigan Lake & Stream Association, Inc. dated 2014 defines special assessment.

"What is a special assessment district? Special assessments in Michigan are authorized only by specific statutes. In the absence of statutory authority, municipalities may not impose special assessments. Various statutes authorize municipalities and local government agencies (including cities, villages, townships, drain commissioners, and statutory lake improvement boards) to create a special assessments district, i.e., a geographic district within which the properties are subject to an annual special assessment or "quasi-tax" which can only be used for certain improvements within that district. When a special assessment district is created, the special assessments are placed on the landowners' annual property tax bills. (Even though special assessments are placed on property tax bills,) they are technically not taxes and not typically deductible from the landowner's income taxes."

In Monitor some special assessments would be drains, lights, retention ponds, trash, sewer etc. If you have questions, don't hesitate to call me.



Notes from Sue Pike, Monitor Township

Treasurer

Tax Collection Hours are Monday through **Friday 9am – 12pm & 1pm – 4pm**

I would like to share some information with you for the upcoming 2014 Summer Tax Season. Our summer tax will consist of State Education Tax, County Operating Tax and Bay City Public School tax. Summer millage total is 32.7157. If 100% homestead, Summer millage total will be 14.7157

We spoke to many residents who came inside the office to pay and we were surprised to find out how many residents had not reviewed the back of their tax bills. We put helpful reminders on the back and any updates. Summer taxes are lower because Delta and ISD collect on winter taxes now, so please remember this as you budget with your mortgage or escrow company.

Summer Taxes will be mailed out June 30th; be sure to review carefully for any corrections that need to be made. 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 15th, please call our office to find out to whom and where they were mailed. Please be aware that 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 the first of July and the first of December 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.

Your tax bill includes your receipt. Please tear off the bottom and mail with your payment. Keep the top portion as your receipt. Additional copies will be 35¢.

Thank you to all of you who use 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. To our residents that request a paid receipt, thank you for including your stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment.

If you have deferred your taxes, payment is due by February 15, 2015. As a courtesy, we have mailed all those who were deferred last year your new application. A new form must be filled out each 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 type in “471” into the search bar. Applications will be accepted from July 1 through September 14, 2014.

As always, cat and dog licenses will be available at the tax window. You must present your rabies certificate to be issued a new license.



Notes from Cindy Kowalski, Township Clerk

Close of Registration Dates



Close of Registration Dates

July 7, 2014 – Last day to register for the August Primary election

October 6, 2014 – Last day to register for the November General election

2014 Election Dates

August 5, 2014 – Primary Election

November 4, 2014 – General Election

Going out of town election day? Absentee ballot applications are available for the Primary and/or General Election. The application for absent voter’s ballot is a dual application that is for both the August 5th Primary and November 4th General Elections. Please check the appropriate box next to the Primary Election Reason and/or the General Election Reason for requesting the absentee ballot. Mark both boxes if you wish to receive a Primary & General election ballot.

Ballots will be mailed approximately 45 days before each election to all voters who have returned the absent voter application. Please designate, in the space provided, your mailing address for each election if it is different from the address shown at the top of this application. Before returning your application, please sign at the red X at both the top and bottom of the application. (Some forms only have a red X at the top.)

You can call or come to the township office to receive your application Monday – Friday during office hours. The Clerk’s office will be open on the Saturday prior to the Primary and General Elections (August 2nd and November 1st) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to issue and receive ballots.

**Election Law Change
Public Act 523 of 2012**

***NEW Photo ID Required for In-Person Absent Voter Ballot**

- If a voter receives an **AV ballot in person** at the Clerk’s office, the **voter is required to present a photo ID** or sign an affidavit. If the voter signs the affidavit, his/her AV ballot must be prepared as a challenged ballot.
- This procedure is only required for voters expecting to leave the Clerk’s office with their AV ballot in hand. **It is not required for voters simply dropping off their AV application and receive the ballot through the mail.**

Not sure if you are registered or where to vote? Call the township office at 684-7203 or go online to

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos> and click on the Elections in Michigan tab. From this page you can access the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) link. This link will also let you view a sample ballot.

Interested in Working an Election and Becoming an Election Inspector?

Are you over 16 years of age and would like to provide a service to your local community?
Monitor Township is currently taking applications for election inspectors. No prior experience is necessary. All training will be provided and training sessions will be conducted in June. Applications are available Monday – Friday during regular business hours. **Involve yourself in the election process and apply today!**



Notes from Chief John Kramer, Monitor Township Fire Chief

Greetings from your Fire Department:

Spring has been a wet one but the warm weather is coming and things will be drying up and yards will be cleaned. As a friendly reminder, Monitor Twp. has a burning ordinance and you will need to obtain a burning permit when you plan to burn your brush piles. You cannot burn grass clippings as it is against the Law. You may obtain the permit at the fire department at anytime. They are good up to three days at a time and there is no cost. If you plan on having a small camp fire in your back yard by using a ring, deck fire place, etc. then you do not need a permit. Please remember that this is a small recreational fire. If the smoke from the fire is going into your neighbor's home and they call, we will come out to investigate and determine if it needs to be put out or not. We do not respond to the odor of burning wood. We realize that the Michigan DNR has been advertising that all you need is a burning permit from them and you can burn. This is true only for those townships who do not have a burning ordinance.

We have purchased a new fire truck with the millage fund. This replaces a 30 year old truck. This truck was purchased in Michigan from the HME Inc. Company located in Wyoming, Michigan. Please feel free to come and visit and look it over. It has more room, more water and is a positive asset to our existing fleet. We here at the fire department want to express our thanks to the community for assisting us in upgrading our equipment through the millage. It has really helped us obtain needed equipment and bring the department up to current NFPA Standards. We continue to work closely with the Township Board to make sure we do the right thing. Keeping our community safe is our number one priority.

We wish you a very pleasant and safe summer.



Notes from Dep. Lee and Dep. Prezzato assigned to Monitor Township

If you go on vacation, you can call the township office to fill out a house check request. 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 with the residence. It is a good idea to leave a key with the contact person in case entry to your house is needed. Have a great summer.

Any questions, please contact Deputy Lee or Deputy Prezzato at (989) 895-4050.



Yard waste pick-up is the day after your regular trash day and continues through November 30. You may put out an *unlimited* number of bags or cans weighing less than 50 pounds. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be accepted.

Recycling now picks up #1, #2, #5, and #6. They *will* pick up shredded paper if it is in a paper bag--not plastic.

Twigs and branches that are less than 3 inches in diameter must be in bundles less than 5 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter.



Monitor Township Park is located on 3 Mile Rd. between Midland and N. Union and is open from 8 a.m. until sunset through September 30. Lost items are taken to the Township office. Come to the Township office to reserve the pavilion or ball diamonds.

Please pick up after your dog when walking whether you are in the park or walking down a street.



For proper disposal of hazardous materials, call the Bay County Health Department at 895-4006 or check their website at www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health

Delayed

Trash is delayed one day after these dates:
July 4, September 1, November 27 and December 25.



Your next newsletter will be sent in December.



Supervisor ----Gary A. Brandt
Supervisor@monitortwp.org
 Clerk-----Cindy Kowalski
Clerk@monitortwp.org
 Deputy Clerk—Linda Ferguson
 Treasurer-----Sue Pike
Treasurer@monitortwp.org
 Deputy Treasurer—Josie Hill
 Assessor---Margaret Ford
Assessor@monitortwp.org
 Building Dept.--Carol Goodwin
Building@monitortwp.org
 Trustee-----Earl Arnold
 Trustee-----Elaine Kochany
 Trustee-----Ken Malkin
 Trustee-----Terry Miller
 Administrative Secretary—
 Jean Wildeboer
Officemanager@monitortwp.org

Historical Notes

30 years ago.....

January 23-1984

- Casa del Ray Restaurant on M-84 has closed.
- Progress is being made on the 911 emergency phone number in the County.

February 1984

- A mobile home park is proposed on the Hartley property at the corner of Midland and Fraser Roads.
- The building of Meijer is nearing completion.



Township Hours

Township Office Hours 9-12 and 1-5
 Tax Collection Hours 9-12 and 1-4
 Assessor Margaret Ford
 8-12 and 1-4 Monday through Friday
 Building Department 9-12
 Carol Goodwin--Bldg. & Zoning Admin. Assistant
 Dave DeGrow--Building Inspector-no office hours
 David Rochow---Zoning Enforcement- no office hrs
 Electrical Inspector
 Dick Wichlinski 989- 684-7803
 Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector
 Dell Bedford 989-272-5108



Have a large item to be picked up? One large item a week can be put out on the same day as your trash. A separate truck does large pickups once a week. Please call Waste Management at 1-800-796-9696 to be placed on the pick up list.

Charter Township of Monitor
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