
WILBER TOWNSHIP NEWS

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Spring-2020

Supervisor's Corner

I'm sure everyone has noticed that we have all been operating a little differently lately. The township hall has been closed to the public since March 24th per Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-21, and this order has essentially been extended, as of this printing, until May 15th.

However, it has been determined by the Michigan Townships Association that Township Board members *are* considered "workers who are necessary to sustain or protect life." That means that we will continue to operate in providing statutory responsibilities, albeit remotely in many cases. Emails are reviewed every day or so, and either responded to or forwarded to the appropriate individuals. It should be noted, however, that Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings have no statutory requirements for time frames and therefore may be cancelled or rescheduled.

I ask you to bear with us, as some things won't be as convenient or as quick as before, until some of the restrictions are eased. Our April Board of Trustees meeting was cancelled, as has our May meeting. If you have something you would like to have addressed please feel free to email the hall and the appropriate staff person will get back to you.

Our website will be utilized to pass along updates.

Mark Nunn

Annual Township Cleanup

The township's annual spring cleanup that has traditionally been held on the second Saturday in June at the Township Hall has regrettably been cancelled for this June, due to the many restrictions currently in place, with no idea as to when they might be lifted.

However, we are looking at trying to reschedule it for possibly later on in late summer or early fall.

IF we are able to do this, we will post the details on our website.

2020 Elections

Two elections remain to be held in the 2020 calendar year: the August 4th Primary Election, and the November 3rd General Election.

Elections held in these four year cycles have two characteristics: they are well attended, and the ballots are long and contain many choices and options.

Because of the current climate and circumstances surrounding the risks of the COVID-19 virus, there has been much written and said about the voting process.

In a recent Pew Research Center survey, taken between March 13-24, almost 70% of voters surveyed expressed concern and discomfort regarding In-person voting. And because health professionals are predicting that social distancing may be a fact of life in the foreseeable future, voting absentee may be the preferred option for many.

Luckily in Michigan, voters in November 2018 changed the state constitution to allow absentee voting without having to provide a reason. How it works: call or email the township hall and request to vote absentee. I'll send you an AV (absent voter) *Application to Vote*. This is similar to the Application to Vote you complete when you first enter the township precinct to vote in person.

Return the *Application to Vote*, and when ballots are available for that specific election, you will be mailed one, usually within one business day, along with a return envelope to send it back.

The Application to Vote also contains a check-box to automatically receive an application for every election.

When your ballot is received, it is receipted and logged in on the Bureau of Elections tracking system. It is then locked up and held until Election Day, when it will be opened by two certified Election Inspectors without disclosing who the voter is. Two others will then deposit the ballot in the tabulator for counting.

A couple of the benefits that I often hear relative to Absentee Voting is that, because ballots are quite lengthy, voters have more time to mull over their choices or conduct further research on an issue or candidate(s). And, you're avoiding the crowds, congestion and distractions of voting in the precinct.

Bob White, Township Clerk

Township Proposals

The Wilber Township Board wants to alert voters to three important township proposals that will appear for renewal consideration on the August 4th Primary ballot. We are first asking that voters renew our one mill levy for Fire Protection. As you know, because we are a small township in population, and because area-wise our geographical area is twice the land area of a typical township we do not have, nor could we financially support, our own fire department. As a result, we contract for fire protection services from three other municipalities: Grant Township, Oscoda Charter Township, and the City of East Tawas. Each covers a specific geographical area of Wilber Township, but all three provide mutual aid to the others if the need arises

And we all know how important fire protection is in our rural area.

The second renewal is also for one mill, for Road Construction and Maintenance, necessary if we are to continue contributing to the repairing and improving roads in the township.

The third is also a renewal for an *additional* one mill, also for Road Construction and Maintenance, to supplement the above millage because of the ever increasing costs of roads improvements.

Prior to 2008, the township's contribution for road improvements on local roads that are not classified as certified roadways was 50% of the total cost. In 2008 that changed, and since then our contribution has been 70%, thus reducing our ability to take on more projects.

From 2005 through 2007, a Grand Total of \$138,745.71 was spent on road improvements in Wilber Township, of which the township's share was \$69,372.86.

From 2008 through 2019, a Grand total of \$793,183.98 was spent on road improvements, of which the township's share was \$555,228.79.

Without these voter-approved millages, much of the above could not have happened.

All three of these millages have been in effect in the township for more than 35 years, but it has never been more important than now that they be continued as costs for these services increase and operating revenues decrease. Please help us continue in our efforts to provide these critical services by supporting these three important ballot proposals on August 4th.

Township Zoning Permits

Township Zoning Permits are required for all construction activities, including new residences, additions, garages, signs, fences, pole buildings & demolitions, as well as for many other non-construction situations and activities, depending on the zoning district in which your property is located.

Also contained within the zoning ordinance are specific setback requirements for placement of structures from property and lot lines.

In addition, the ordinance governs such uses as the number and placement of accessory buildings, yard sales, swimming pools, fences, livestock, kennels, roadside stands, and commercial activities, to name but a few.

As mentioned, the entire Wilber Township Zoning Ordinance is posted on our website, as are most Zoning Permit forms.

Zoning Permits must be obtained **before** any such activities begin by contacting the township zoning administrator. His contact information is listed in the directory section of this newsletter. Township zoning permits are \$25.

Remember, a Township Zoning Permit is ***always required***. An Iosco County building permit may also be required, and is obtained at the Iosco County Building Department **after** the issuance of the zoning permit.

Township Treasurer's Office Hours

Summer Tax Bills are mailed July 1st, and are due and payable by September 15th. This means that all address changes must be received on or before June 1st in order to be placed on the summer bill.

The township treasurer's office hours are each Wednesday at the township hall from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm during the above mentioned dates.

As the Oscoda & Tawas Area School districts collect their school operating millage on the summer tax bill, **Principal Residence Exemptions must be received on or before June 1st to be effective for the next tax cycle**

Winter Tax Bills are mailed on December 1st – This means that all address changes must be received on or before November 1st in order to be placed on the summer bill.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Supervisor: Mark Nunn	989-362-2022
Clerk: Robert D. White	989-362-5410
Treasurer: Steve Ferguson	989-362-5410
Trustee: Sally Krueger	989-362-2510
Trustee: Mary Pingot	989-329-5020
Zoning Administrator &:	
Ordinance Officer: Ron Phillips	989-362-5410
Assessor: Jessica Landry	989-820-6961
Cemetery Sexton: Dave Mioduch	989-362-8222
<u>Planning Commission:</u>	
Robert Golka, Chair	989-362-7047
Rich Fullerton, Vice-Chair	989-362-5509
Robert White, Secretary	989-362-5410
Frank Kassuba, Member	989-362-8515
Cheri Mioduch, Member	989-254-0437

Calendar of Events & Important Dates

REGULAR **TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS** ARE HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL. WHEN THE FIRST MONDAY IS A HOLIDAY OR HOLIDAY-OBSERVED, MEETINGS ARE THE FOLLOWING MONDAY. REGULAR MEETING DATES WHICH PRECEDE TUESDAY ELECTION DAYS ARE ALSO MOVED TO THE FOLLOWING MONDAY. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD, OR CHANGES IN MEETING DATES, WILL BE POSTED ON THE TOWNSHIP HALL BULLETIN BOARD.

REGULAR **PLANNING COMMISSION** MEETINGS FOR 2020 ARE FEBRUARY 13, APRIL 9, JUNE 11, AUGUST 13, OCTOBER 8, AND DECEMBER 10. MEETING TIMES ARE **9:00 AM**. SPECIAL MEETINGS ARE HELD UPON REQUEST. ALL MEETINGS ARE AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL.

JULY **BOARD OF REVIEW** – TUESDAY, JULY 21ST AT 9AM. THIS MEETING IS TO CORRECT QUALIFIED ERRORS AND MUTUAL MISTAKES. NO APPEALS WILL BE HEARD.

DECEMBER **BOARD OF REVIEW** – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 9AM. THIS MEETING IS TO CORRECT QUALIFIED ERRORS AND MUTUAL MISTAKES. NO APPEALS WILL BE HEARD.

Cemetery

A few reminders about the Wilber Township Cemetery:

1. Anyone planning to have a headstone or other grave monument set must obtain a foundation permit, which is \$15. In addition, the foundation must be set by an approved vendor, and must be authorized in advance by the township, with the township as the payee for the work.
2. Anyone wishing to have Cremains interred in the cemetery must make these arrangements through the township clerk, **and the cemetery sexton must perform the interment.** It is a violation of the law for any others to perform an interment.
3. A reminder that our cemetery does not have perpetual care; maintenance of plots are the responsibility of owners or family members, etc.

The Board of Trustees wants to also remind everyone about some important laws pertaining to cemeteries. Michigan has literally dozens of statutes (laws) which regulate cemeteries in the state. Some of the more relevant ones are as follows:

Firearms: Act 12 of 1869 prohibits firearms and hunting within cemeteries. However, properly supervised and official *ceremonial* use of firearms is allowed. (MCL 456.114)

Off-Road Vehicles & Snowmobiles: Neither are allowed in cemeteries. (MCL 324.81133 & MCL 324.82126)

Pets & Domestic Animals: Prohibited from running at large, entering or being upon any premises constituting a cemetery—constitutes a misdemeanor. Act 329 of 1931. (MCL 750.67)

Fences: No person can jump or climb over a cemetery fence. (MCL 456.114)

Vandalism: Willful destruction of cemetery property is a criminal offense under Act 328 of 1931 (MCL 750.387)

Dust Control

Dust Control cost for 2020 is \$96 for three applications of 300 feet each. Dust control costs are shared equally by the resident, Wilber Township, and the Iosco County Road Commission.

Checks made out to Wilber Township and mailed to the township hall, and they would be appreciated by May 17th, sooner if possible.

The area to be treated must be staked, and some stakes will be available at the township hall.

Burn Permits

Burn Permits are required for all outdoor fires, other than small cooking fires, campfires, or fires contained in an approved and covered outdoor container. Burn Permits are issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, either via their web-site, or their toll-free number.

www.michigan.gov/burnpermit
1-866-922-2876

All burn permits are for one day only

NOTE: Burning of Household Trash is prohibited; this includes plastic, rubber, foam, chemically treated wood, textiles, electronics, chemicals & hazardous materials. (Public Act 102 of 2012)

Notice to those who choose to burn: You are responsible for fire, smoke, or odors created from open burning....and for damage that results from your fire: *Michigan DEQ*

Comments about the newsletter, as well as information and topics you would like to see included in future editions should be submitted in writing:

Wilber Township
3120 Sherman Road
East Tawas, MI 48730 or,
E-mail: wilbertownship@hughes.net
Thanks. Bob White, Clerk
Website: wilbertwp.com

From the Assessor

We have finally made it to the summer months of 2020. This year certainly has been a roller coaster and I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and well. Over the new few months annual property reappraisals will be taking place. As you all know, it is my duty to maintain our records, which requires annual review of at least 20% of all parcels in our township. **This means that you may receive a visit from either me or a member of my team. This visit is to update our record card, photos and sketch data.** This is essential to insure accurate and uniform assessments throughout our township. Please remember - a visit to the property does **NOT** automatically mean an increase in your assessment. As always – your cooperation is much appreciated! Jessica Landry, MAAO ~ Contact Number: (989)820-6961 ~ Email Address: townshipassessor06@gmail.com

2020 Road Improvement Projects

Following is a brief description of road maintenance & improvement projects approved by the Board of Trustees March 27, 2020.

Sherman Road from Curtis Road 2,640 feet north with 2 foot shielders on each side: \$54,155.09, Wilber Township share \$37,908.56.

Esmond Road from Sherman to Brooks Road, patching with salvaged RAP/Gravel mix: \$3,377.00, Township share=\$2,363.90.

Prough Drive to the Township Line, 1,572 feet with 50 foot right-of-way, paving with Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP): \$35,372.15, Township share=\$24,760.51.

Various Roads: Wilber, Brooks, and Galion: Aggregate Base: \$7,040.00, Township share=\$4,928.

Total improvement costs estimates: \$130,255.95; Wilber Township share=\$91,595.79

The Iosco County Road Commission asks that residents with general road maintenance concerns or other issues to either call them directly (989-362-4433), or for even faster response, register a service request on their automated web site. The web site address is: www.ioscoroads.org/ Click on Service Request.