

BENGAL TOWNSHIP NEWS

July
2018

Clinton County, Michigan

www.bengaltownship.com

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

To arrange to rent the township hall contact Sharon Bassette at **989-640-4750**. Rental charge for Township residents is \$100; non-residents \$150 (plus security deposit of \$150 for each rental). The rental agreement and other rental information may be found at www.bengaltownship.com.

SUMMER TAX BILL MESSAGES

Summer property taxes are payable July 01 to September 14 by:

- Mail to 2801 S Forest Hill Rd St Johns
- In person at the Township Hall on M-21 on Friday, September 14 from 9am-5pm
- Or by appointment (call 517-927-9273).

Review your tax bill for interest/penalty information for past due taxes. Checks or money orders are preferred; however, cash payments for the exact amount owed will also be accepted (there is no cash drawer in the office to make change). Thank you. ☺

Deferment of Summer Taxes: Remember that September 14 is the last day to file for the Summer Deferment per MCL 211.51(7). Certain taxpayers can apply to have their summer property taxes deferred until February 14. ***All of the requirements and application form may be found at www.michigan.gov/treasury.

In general, there are two ways to qualify for this deferment: 1) gross household income of \$40,000 or less and falling into an exemption classification or 2) owning an agricultural or horticultural operation for which gross receipts are not less than household income.

Need a receipt? Receipts for tax payments are sent out only upon request. If you need a receipt, please let us know and we will gladly mail one to you.

THANK YOU! ☺

NOTE FROM OUR ASSESSOR

Hello Bengal Township Residents,

My name is Barbara Moss and I am the new Bengal Township Assessor. Dr. Mark Holley, the former assessor, will be helping me make the transition from Clinton County Equalization Director to Bengal Township Assessor.

The assessors in Clinton County have all just been audited to determine if minimum assessing responsibilities are being met in each township and city. Dr. Mark Holley passed the audit easily for Bengal Township May 1st. Most units passed well except for the City of Saint Johns!

It is a good time to change assessors in Bengal Township. The records are in good order, a reappraisal has recently been completed and an assessor who has been helping out a little is available to come on board.

I am looking forward to this change in my career, too. For the last 24 years I have worked for Clinton County and attained Master Assessor (4) certification in 2012. I would like to thank the Bengal Township Board for hiring me!

Please contact me, Barbara Moss, with assessing questions. My phone number is 989.292.0389. My email address is masterassessor@gmail.com

The mailing address remains the same: PO Box 656, Ovid, MI 48866

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The County Sheriff's Office remains involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program. To receive Neighborhood Watch Newsletters and/or Alerts by email, sign up at www.clinton-county.org/LawJustice/SheriffOffice.aspx.

MOVING?

Be sure you give your forwarding address to our Township Treasurer as soon as possible.

<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Township Assessor</i>
Deborah Schafer 989-593-2325	Denice Schultheiss 517-927-9273	Sharon Bassette 989-640-4750	Bill Kushmaul 616-240-4100	Nick McDonald 517-819-6127	Barbara Moss 989-292-0389

ZONING REVIEW PROCESS

If an Applicant would like to start a project, they must first contact McKenna to verify the development requirements of the project and McKenna will determine if the project is minor or major per the Interim Zoning Ordinance.

Minor Projects

For minor projects, the Applicant shall submit to the Bengal Township Clerk (**800 S US-27 #124, St Johns MI**) the Zoning Compliance Application, associated fees (per the Bengal Township Fee Schedule) and a basic plot plan for the proposed project. Once the completed application and fee are received by Bengal Township, McKenna will review the proposed project and will either approve or deny. Minor projects do not require review by the Bengal Township Planning Commission or Township Board.

Approved plans for minor projects will receive a Zoning Compliance Certificate signed by the Zoning Administrator and will be permitted to apply for construction/trade permits through Clinton County. Denied plans will receive comments and recommendations from McKenna to bring the project into zoning compliance and the Applicant may re-submit revised plans.

Major Projects

Major projects will require site plan review, special land use, rezoning, or variances before a Zoning Compliance Certificate can be issued. The proposed project will need to be reviewed by the Bengal Township Planning Commission and possibly the Township Board.

For major projects, applications, associated fees (per the Bengal Township Fee Schedule), and sealed site plans must be submitted to the Bengal Township Clerk at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled Planning Commission meeting. McKenna will provide review comments and recommendations prior to the next scheduled Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission will approve, approve with conditions, table, or deny the site plan and planning requests.

A Zoning Compliance Certificate is required for all minor and major projects in order for the Applicant to apply for construction, trade, sanitary, soil erosion control permits; all of which will be provided by Clinton County. Inspections will be scheduled through Clinton County.

The Interim Ordinance, Fee Schedule, Application Forms and other information regarding this process may be found at: www.bengaltownship.com.

McKenna Contact Information:

Gregory M. Elliott, AICP

Principal Planner

t: 248.596.0920 | 888.226.4326

f: 248.596.0930 | gelliott@mcka.com

NOTES FROM CLINTON COUNTY

A status report:

- County has no building debt.
- Facilities are all of recent construction (Jail 1988, Courthouse 1999, Health Dept., DPW, Animal shelter all since 2000.
- Financial, Juvenile care program, & Jail system Audits all favorable.

Going forward:

- Reviewing possible fairgrounds improvements.
- Establishing a 911 backup center.
- Future 911 communications enhancements
- Constantly adjusting an ever-tightening budget.
- Maintenance to keep facilities in good condition
- County approved 130 acre solar farm project, NE of St Johns.

Challenges:

- Unfunded or underfunded Federal and State mandates.
- Information Technology changes and maintaining IT security.
- Finding skilled employees and improving those skills.
- Facility security for constituent and employee safety.
- Improving working relationship with other area governments.

David W. Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner District 2

The Bengal Township Board wishes everyone a safe and fun filled summer season!!

