

# BENGAL TOWNSHIP NEWS

July  
2020

Clinton County, Michigan

[www.bengaltownship.com](http://www.bengaltownship.com)

## SUMMER TAX BILL MESSAGES

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

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

**Please observe safety precautions:** Payments are preferred by mail to best protect the health of Township employees, Township residents and their loved ones. While local and national health concerns continue, anyone paying their bill in person at the Township Hall is requested to observe safe social distancing (including while waiting in line), and wear masks (if you are medically able to do so).

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](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury).

There are generally two ways to qualify for this deferment: 1) gross household income of \$40k 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.

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.

## 2020 ELECTIONS

This election year, everyone will be getting an application to vote by absentee ballot. It is your choice if you want to vote at the township hall or by absent ballot. If you want to become a **permanent** absent voter you may mark "permanent" on the absent voter application; if there is not a spot to do that on the application, you may simply write that you want to become a permanent absentee voter on the application you send to the township for your ballot. You may also send your request (including your name and address) to the Bengal Township Clerk at [bengaltownshipclerk2@gmail.com](mailto:bengaltownshipclerk2@gmail.com) or 800 S. US 27, Box 124, St. Johns, MI 48879.

Voters now have the ability to view their election-specific information, including their absentee application and ballot sent and received dates, sample ballot preview, polling location, and information to confirm they are on the permanent absentee voter list. The website is [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).

## TOWNSHIP ZONING

If you are considering renovations or splitting land, you must fill out a Zoning Compliance Application which can be found under "Ordinances & Policies" at [www.bengaltownship.com](http://www.bengaltownship.com). Additionally, these actions require ESCROW funding as outlined on the Fee Schedule which can also be found on the Township's site. Specific questions regarding Zoning can be directed to the Township Planning & Zoning Administrator, Christopher Khorey ([CKhorey@mcka.com](mailto:CKhorey@mcka.com) or (248)596-0920).

## TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

Upon consideration of recent national/state health conditions and governmental directives, hall rentals over the past couple months have been cancelled and refunds have been issued. The Township hall will be available to rent again starting 07/01/20. In accordance with governmental directive, the hall occupancy capacity will be reduced by 50% to 45 persons. The hall rental situation is a fluid one; the Board will follow guidelines set by governmental directives and will notify renters of cancellations if the situation changes.

You may schedule/reserve rental dates but be aware, there are presently no guarantees the reservation will not later be cancelled. To schedule/reserve the township hall, contact Sharon Bassette at **989-640-4750**. The rental charge for Township residents is \$100 and for non-residents is \$150; this is in addition to the security deposit of \$150 for each rental. The rental agreement and other rental information may be found at [www.bengaltownship.com](http://www.bengaltownship.com).

<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	Mark Holley 989-834-5611

## BURNING PERMITS

Residents living **West of Francis Rd** can obtain a burning permit by contacting the **Dallas Township Fire Department at 593-3146**. Residents will be asked to leave their name, address and phone number, what they are burning, and which days they wish to burn. Please call 24 hours in advance. If you have any questions, please call Vern Feldpausch at 989-593-2768.

Bengal Township residents living **East of Francis Road** can obtain a burning permit by contacting the **City of St. Johns Police Dept. at 989-224-6721**. You will be asked your name and address, what you are burning, how much you are burning, and when you wish to burn. Here, it is best to actually speak with someone to confirm your burning permit is approved.

**REMEMBER: Burn permits are required by residents.** When either the Dallas Township or St. Johns Fire Department responds to a fire/rescue call, the **property owner** is billed.

In the event of a fire run within the township, Bengal Township is charged **\$1000.00 when a fire truck or \$450.00 when a first responder leaves the fire station**. Bengal Township is charged \$1000.00 for the first two hours and \$500.00 for every hour after that for fire service. **When Bengal Township gets billed, the person upon whom the service is provided will be billed.** Please check your insurance to see if Fire or First Responder is covered. Typically, basic homeowners insurance only covers up to \$500.00. A small increase in your premium could save you hundreds!!

## 2020 ROAD MAINTENANCE

The road maintenance projects planned for 2020:

- Chloride & BrushSpray
- Overband/Fill: Francis to Forest Hill (SB)
- Gravel:
  - Thelen Rd: Townsend to Parks
  - Lowell Rd: Townsend to Parks
  - Bauer Rd: Taft to Parks
  - Grove Rd: Townsend to Parks
  - Taft Rd: Lowell to Grove
  - Wacousta Rd: Townsend to Taft
  - Spot Gravel
- Chip Seal:
  - Parks Rd: Wacousta to SB Forest Hill
  - Parks Rd: Francis to Grove

*We wish you all a healthy and fun-filled summer season!!*

## BOARD MEETINGS

The board may occasionally hold monthly Township meetings electronically, if deemed necessary for safe social distancing. Should this occur, an announcement will be posted the Monday before such meeting on the message board in front of the Township Hall or on the township's website [www.bengaltownship.com](http://www.bengaltownship.com). In such cases, you may call in or attend by video.

## NOTES FROM CLINTON COUNTY

- Clinton County has been operating under a Local State of Emergency Order since March 9<sup>th</sup>. This order will likely be extended until circumstances justify a change.
- The County addressed in a budget amendment some of the income and expense changes related to the Covid-19 impacts.
- Other Covid-19 related items: The Clinton County jail did some early releases and thus far no re-offenders. The 911 volume is down but requires more time to clarify if the location may have a Covid-19 risk to the responding agency. The Clinton Transit passenger service is down significantly; however, they are doing home supply delivery services to the home bound. As of now, there are no jury trials until June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Clinton County is reviewing the future operations in an effort to minimize the impact on the staff and the public while doing business in County facilities.
- The Board of Commissioners approved the reduction of the 911 phone surcharge from \$2.75 to \$1.50 per line per month. This takes effect with the July 2020 phone billing. The upgrade for the 911 system is in progress and targeted to be in place by late 2021.
- Waste Management of Clinton County cancelled the clean community event of April. The Fall event at this time is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> with detail to be provided.

**David W. Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner District 2**

## BOARD OF REVIEW

\*\*\*\*\*JULY 21, 2020 4:30pm- 5:30pm\*\*\*\*\*

## TOWNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Township invites you to contact us if you are interested in becoming an election inspector, or a member of the Board of Review, the Zoning Board of Appeals, or the Planning Commission. If you are interested, email your name and contact information to [bengaltownshipclerk2@gmail.com](mailto:bengaltownshipclerk2@gmail.com) or you may also call Sharon @ 989-640-4750. When a position comes available we will contact you.

