

BENGAL TOWNSHIP NEWS

July
2021

Clinton County, Michigan

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 Bengal Township Hall on M-21 on Tuesday, 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 (while waiting in line), and wear a mask if you are ill.

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.

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.

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. **Did you know you could print your own receipt?** Go to www.accessmygov.com further explained below.

REMINDER: Property info and historical tax payments (only those paid **directly** to Bengal Township) can be viewed by the property owner online at www.accessmygov.com. BS&A provides the technical help using this webpage (1-855-BSA-SOFT).

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. 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 or (248)596-0920).

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

PC Meeting Date Change: The Planning Commission is moving its monthly meeting from the first Wednesday of each month to the last Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the township hall. The new dates are posted on the notification board in front of the hall and on-line.

Inspections: Please note that all township projects, including Ag buildings, must be inspected by the Township Inspector. A preliminary site inspection AND a final inspection is required. If your application is approved, you will receive a letter from the Township's Zoning Administrator, McKenna Associates, instructing you to contact Tom McComb at (517)230-7144 to set up the inspection. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in fines and project delays.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The next meeting will be held:
July 16, 2021, at 5:00 pm

If you have questions on what can be addressed during this Board of Review meeting, please contact the Township Assessor.

<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Township Assessor</i>
Nick McDonald 517-819-6127	Denice Schultheiss 517-927-9273	Sharon Bassette 989-640-4750	Stanley Sillman 989-640-0419	Eric Boak 517-449-4283	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 989-593-3146**. 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 other 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 homeowner insurance only covers up to \$500.00. A small increase in your premium could save you hundreds!!

2021 ROAD MAINTENANCE

The road maintenance projects planned for 2021:

- Chloride
- Various Brush Spray and Roadside Mowing
- Overband & Crack Seal: Black Top Roads
- Gravel:
 - Bauer Rd: M-21 to Townsend
 - Taft Rd: Forest Hill to Wacousta
 - Townsend Rd: Bauer to Wacousta
 - Walker Rd: Lowell to Airport
 - Taft Rd: Forest Hill to Francis
 - Lowell Rd: Walker to Kinley
 - Grove Rd: Centerline to Taft
 - Grove Rd: Taft WB to Parks
 - Essex Center Rd: Walker to Kinley
- Culvert Replacement: Bauer Rd South of Kinley Rd

BOARD MEETINGS

The board may occasionally hold monthly Township meetings electronically, if deemed necessary. 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. 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, 2020. This order will likely be extended until circumstances justify a change.
- If you looking to get your Covid-19 vaccination, try your local pharmacy, go to MMDHD website or Seniors call Tri-County Office on Aging 1-517-887-1440.
- The Clinton County Road Commission is reviewing building update options. The existing facility was built nearly fifty years ago and the equipment, storage, and management needs are outgrowing the capacity available. This may include a bond for the financing which the County Government guarantees.
- The County authorized the 4H to utilize the Fairgrounds on a limited basis for the Fair this year. Also, Motz Park will be operating at near normal. Smith Hall will be limited to County functions.
- The County Drain Commissioner has prepared an instructive letter to send to the property owners who may be able to have the flood insurance removed from their mortgage payment. It is then up to the property owner to follow thru.
- Clinton Transit is expanding the service area and adding Saturday service. The phone # is 989-224-8127
- The 911 upgrade project is progressing very well and is on target to move to the new system before year end 2021.

David W. Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner District 2

TOWNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Township invites you to contact us if you are interested in participating in the township in some capacity should the need arise (in the planning/zoning arena, assisting during elections, assisting as a Deputy Clerk or Deputy Treasurer etc.), please either call Sharon Bassette at 989-640-4750 or email your name and contact information to bengaltownshipclerk2@gmail.com.



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