

MILTON TOWNSHIP-ANTRIM COUNTY

7023 Cherry Avenue, P.O. Box 309

Kewadin, Michigan 49648

www.miltontownship.org

231-264-6612

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

Lon Bargy, Supervisor	231-645-0841	Suplbargy@hotmail.com
Sandy Ball, Clerk	231-264-6612	SballClerk@gmail.com
Liz Atkinson, Treasurer	231-264-6693	Miltontownshiptreasurer@gmail.com
Tom Cole, Trustee	231-264-5565	Tbcole@charter.net
Brett Pharo, Trustee	231-264-6612	Brettpharo@gmail.com
Chris Weinzapfel, Zoning Administrator	231-264-6697	Miltonzoning@gmail.com
Amy Jenema, Assessor	231-632-3529	Assessoramy@gmail.com
Jeremy Ball, Fire Chief	231-499-1720	Miltontwpfd@gmail.com

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

Township Board; 2nd Monday of each month,
Planning Commission; 2nd Tuesday of each month
Zoning Board of Appeals; 2nd Thursday as scheduled.

SUPERVISOR – LON BARGY

Milton Township is a great place to live, work & retire and I am pleased to say that the state of our township is strong. As a Board, we have made solid decisions for our citizens and will continue to develop and implement new policies and procedures to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our community.

As our master plan supports through public input, we have acquired 450 feet of Elk Lake frontage for a public park/beach. This was a result of the Township purchasing 2 parcels amortized over a 10 year period along with receiving a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Acquisition Grant of \$464,000. We are discussing the design and implementation of a safe crosswalk to access the beachfront from the future parking across the road with the Antrim County Road Commission. In partnership with Gosling Czubak Engineering, Inc., a development grant was submitted April 1st, 2016 for \$421,000 to provide improvements to the beachfront. Results of the development grant request will be received as early as October 2016.

Another opportunity Milton Township has been presented with is Camp Maplehurst. An acquisition grant was submitted April 1st, 2016. All of these grants are discussed in more detail in the Park & Recreation Committee section in this newsletter. As past surveys have indicated, a high majority of residents voiced their priority to maintain the rural character of our township. Good planning and a strong vision is a result of realizing that future growth cannot be stopped, but it can be directed to reflect what and who we want to be as a township.

I thank the members in our Planning Commission, Park & Recreation Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Review who dedicate their time and expertise to ensure our future is a good one for generations to come.

CLEAN UP DAY:

We provide Milton Township Residents with two clean-up days, typically the last Saturday in April & August, each year at an approximate cost of \$6000. to \$7000. each. This service is provided exclusively for the taxpayers of Milton Township. A Township officer/official will be on-site to verify residency. You must provide a current driver's license and/or tax bill that indicates Milton Township residency prior to using this service.

The Milton Township trash clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, August 27, 2016 from 7:00 – noon at the corner of Cairn Hwy. and Cherry Avenue. Please do not bring oil, flammable materials, batteries, any liquid paints or solvents, chemicals, pesticides or yard clippings, brush or branches. Refrigerators will be accepted for a disposal fee of \$30.00 and passenger tires only for \$6.00 each. Verify these clean up dates via the Milton Township website, Elk Rapids Newspaper 1 to 2 weeks prior and in the township minutes.

Antrim County will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Bellaire on August 6, 2016 from 9am to 1pm behind the Antrim County Building. You can call Antrim County @ 231-533-8363 for more information.

PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Milton Township was awarded three grants to continue the development of a park at the north end of Elk Lake. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) granted \$464,300.00 toward the purchase of the Water's Edge Resort in Kewadin. This property has 182 feet of frontage on Elk Lake. The Township purchased properties with 198 feet of frontage in 2014 and also owns a 66-ft road end adjacent to these properties. The Township now has a total of 446 feet of continuous frontage for the waterside park in Kewadin. The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) was instrumental in partnering with us in acquiring this MNRTF grant.

Rotary Charities granted an award of \$30,000 along with \$1,000 from Paddle Antrim toward the installation of a Universal Access Kayak/Canoe Launch to be installed in 2016. These awards are designated specifically for the installation of a kayak transfer and launch system that is fully accessible for persons with disabilities. The Elk Rapids Rotary has also expressed a sincere interest in supporting this project and is currently reviewing design plans to identify specific funding projects.

The Township will now begin making infrastructure improvements on the properties to provide parking and access to the beach areas, as well as installation of the kayak launch. At the same time plans will be developed for phased improvements to the property. A development grant was submitted to the MNRTF April 1, 2016, and if successful, we will begin further park enhancements.

In partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) Milton Township has also submitted a MNRTF acquisition grant for the purchase of Camp Maplehurst. The 400 acre Camp Maplehurst, with a 62 acre Maplehurst Lake, served as a co-ed camp for children 7-17 for over 50 years and is located on Powell Rd. off Waring Rd. Postcards were mailed in February 2016 to every taxpayer in Milton Township requesting they complete an on-line survey through our website or request a hardcopy from our office. We received a 25.5% response indicating 70% favorable in the acquisition of Maplehurst. Complete survey results can be viewed on our website. The Milton Township Board appreciates the taxpayers input and time taken to submit your surveys giving the Committee & Board direction. The purchase price for this property is \$2,700,000 with matching funds required of \$824,700. Milton Township has entered into a project agreement with The GTRLC where they have pledged to raise \$1,836,987. This fund raising effort is designated to fund the local match, building demolition and other short term stewardship needs and organizational costs along with \$100,000 to an endowment/stewardship fund for the property and \$50,000 for initial improvements.

ROAD WORK: Milton Township plans to re-surface Quarterline Road in 2016 at a cost of \$284,400. Roads identified as needing repair and will be considered for next year are; Stallman Rd. and Joe Marks Trail.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR – CHRIS WEINZAPFEL

A FEW ANSWERS TO SOME ZONING QUESTIONS;

- The Township does not regulate fences but asks you to be respectful of neighbors, make sure it is kept on your own property and do not encroach into the 25 foot protection strip on lakes.
- A permit is required for all structures and they must meet the setbacks for your zone.
- Milton Township does allow weekly rentals but they must comply with both the zoning ordinance and township police ordinance which requires completing and filing a permit with the zoning office. The permit and zoning ordinance can be found online at www.miltontownship.org.
- There is NO overnight parking, camping or mooring of watercraft on/off any township road end access or property.
- For the protection of the Lake Waters the Township has a 25 foot Protection Strip along all waterfront lots regulating what is allowed to be done and requires that a permit be pulled for any ground work, alterations, patios, decks, etc.
- The Township does not allow any accessory structure or use on a parcel without a primary structure.
- The Township has a Septic Inspection and Property Transfer Ordinance that requires inspection of the septic and water by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan prior to time of transfer.

Helpful phone number

Northwest Michigan Health Department - 231-533-8670
Antrim County Soil Erosion, Heidi Shaffer - 231-533-8363
Antrim County Building Department - 231-533-8373

TREASURER – LIZ ATKINSON

If you require a paid receipt for your taxes you must provide a stamped self-addressed envelope. If you prefer, we can also email a receipt if an email address is provided with your payment.

We offer several ways to pay your taxes; in person, by mail, by internet through our website; www.milontownship.org using a debit/credit card or electronic check. A 3% processing fee will be assessed for all credit/debit card payments and for electronic payments; \$3.00 up to \$10,000. or \$10.00 over \$10,000. For added convenience we have a secure drop box at the side door entrance of the Milton Township office located at 7023 Cherry Avenue, Kewadin, MI.

If you escrow, the original tax bill is always mailed to the property owner for your records. Each tax cycle, the mortgage holder requests the tax amount due to the township in order to pay from your escrowed funds.

Please notify this office of any address changes in order for your tax bill to reach you. Please note that any name changes can only be made through the Antrim County Register of Deeds office.

Each year the summer tax bills are mailed July 1st with a due date of September 14th and winter bills are mailed December 1st with a due date of February 14th. After February 14th a 3% penalty is assessed until March 1st. All payments received after March 1st are turned over to the Antrim County Treasurer for collection.

CLERK – SANDRA BALL

2016 Election Information

Primary Election:

- July 5, 2016 - Last day to register to vote in the State Primary.
- August 2, 2016 – Election Day

General Election

- October 11, 2016 – Last day to register to vote in the State General.
- November 8, 2016 – Election Day

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. To become a registered voter you must: Be a citizen of the United States, be 18 years of age by the next election date, be a resident of the Township 30 days prior to the election.

Please visit or contact the Clerk's Office or any Secretary of State Branch Office to register to vote.

Milton Township has 1 polling precinct located at 7023 Cherry Avenue, Kewadin, Michigan.

SELLING A HOME IN MILTON TOWNSHIP?

Sellers in Milton Township are required to have septic and well systems inspected prior to a sale. Be sure to allow a minimum of 2 weeks for that to happen, preferably longer. The sale can't close without it. Milton Township looks to the Antrim County Health Department to test well water and to inspect on-site sewage systems, at the property seller's expense. Systems that were newly installed within the past 10 years, or that were inspected within the past five years, are exempt. Septic tanks must be pumped before a property changes hands, unless the seller can produce record showing that the tank has been pumped by a licensed contractor with the past five years. This ordinance protects homebuyers, as well as the Township's precious natural environment, which is especially important for a township bordered by four different lakes. This ordinance was adopted in October 2012, making Milton Township the first in the four-county Health District to enact a Time-of-Transfer Ordinance for property transactions.

ON SALE NOW! This beautiful hard bound, 8 ½" x 11" Collector's Edition containing 256 pages explores Milton Township's settlement, agricultural and commercial history to present day. It also features many detailed family histories! Over 200 photos and illustrations. Book price is \$35.00 pickup. Add \$6.00 to mail.



FIRE CHIEF – JEREMY BALL

The Milton Township Fire Department operates out of two stations. Station One is located at 7015 Cairn hwy. Station One houses a Pumper, Tanker, Mini- Pumper, Rescue, and ATV. Station Two is located at 12105 Cherry Ave. Station Two houses a Pumper, Tanker, Mini-Pumper, Water Supply Truck and Utility vehicle.

The departments ISO rating is a "6" on a 1-10 scale which is an outstanding rating for a rural area without fire hydrants. The rating prior to our evaluation in 2011 was a "9". Please check with your home owners insurance agency to see how much your insurance premium was lowered do in part to this improved rating. The department strives in providing the best fire protection possible.

The department has implemented a "Knox Box Program". This program is used for commercial and residential buildings. This is a high security box that would be installed on the outside of your building. Inside the box would contain vital information, spare key for entry into doors, hazardous material information or even patient information. By having a knox box, there could be a cost savings on your homeowner's or business insurance, save response time for responders and allow them easier access to your home during an emergency without forcing entry and causing damage. We have 6 Knox Boxes in service to date: 4 commercial and 2 residential

NEW FOR 2016: Please install a reflective address sign. These reflective signs are very inexpensive and provide easier means of identification for your home or business for Law Enforcement, EMS or Fire Responses. This limits "time" which is very critical in an emergency. If you need assistance installing a sign or have general questions feel free to contact the department. We also have implemented a Smoke Alarm Program – we want every home in Milton Twp. to have at least two working smoke alarms. Please contact the department if you do not have one.

If you burn leaves, brush etc., make sure you check the DNR website at Michigan.gov/burn permits or contact the DNR's phone number at 1-866-922-2876 to check if you are able to burn. The burn permit hotline and website is updated every 10 minutes.

The department holds meetings every Tuesday with the first Tuesday's meeting being an officer meeting and staff meeting. The rest of the Tuesday's are training nights. If you're a Milton Township resident or live close to the township and have an interest in serving your community and have an interest in joining the fire department please feel free to stop in on Tuesday nights at 7 pm. . Our roster has a total of 15 members, we are in need of new personnel willing to serve the community and become a part of a great organization that's really become a family. We are very short staffed during the daytime (when most calls for service come in). One goal we are working toward is having a full time staffed position during the daytime hours.

If you have inquiries or request additional information on any of the above, please contact Chief Ball at 231-264-6694 or email the department at miltontwpfd@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook and check out our website at miltontownship.org.

I thank the community for their continued support of the fire department.

ASSESSOR – AMY JENEMA

Frequently Asked Questions;

MY NEIGHBOR AND I HAVE VERY SIMILAR HOMES. WHY IS MY TAX BILL HIGHER THAN THEIRS?

If you have a home or property that is truly similar to your neighbor's home, your SEV should be about equal to theirs; however, the Taxable Values would probably not be the same. Since the passage of Proposal A in 1994 the Taxable Value is used to calculate tax bills. Each Taxable Value will depend on when the property was capped and the Taxable Value is also subject to any additions and/or losses to the property. SEV and Taxable Value are not the same and should not be compared when evaluating a tax bill. Another factor that will cause similar properties to have different tax amounts is if one property receives the Principle Residence Exemption. In Milton Township this will cause the millage rate to be reduced by 18 mills or \$18 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

I JUST PURCHASED MY HOME. SHOULDN'T THE ASSESSED VALUE BE HALF OF WHAT I PAID?

No. By state law, a home's Assessed Value is not half of the purchase price, but half of its market value. The Assessed Value represents 50% of the Market Value. The figure is calculated through a study of sales in the Township for a two year period. The State of Michigan regulates the dates for the study. The 2016 assessments were based on sales that occurred during 10/01/2013 thru 9/30/2015. The purchase price may or may not be the same as the market value.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION?

If you own and occupy your principal residence, it may be exempt from a portion of your local school operating taxes. To claim an exemption, you must complete the Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit and file it with the Assessor's office by June 1st of the year of the claim. You may have only one principal residence at a time. Vacation homes and income property which you do not occupy as your principal residence may not be claimed.



ABOVE ARE 2 EXAMPLES OF GOOD SHORELINE PROTECTION

IMAGINE WHAT YOUR PROPERTY VALUES WILL DO IF THE WATER QUALITY OF OUR LAKES DECLINES.....

In Milton Township we essentially live on a peninsula surrounded by the waters of Lake Michigan, Torch Lake, Torch River, Lake Skegemog and the Elk Lake. Living on the shore land of these magnificent bodies of water is an exceptional experience. We enjoy the beauty of the seasons as reflected by our lakes and enjoy fishing, boating and swimming in their pristine waters.

As we enjoy the pleasures of shore land living, we must recognize the responsibility we have in preserving our watershed environment – protecting the quality of our waters and the wildlife that share this land with us. Establishing a natural shoreline protection strip near the water's edge is a great way to beautify your shoreline and serve as a buffer between your lawn and the water's edge. Protection strips with native plants reduce erosion by stabilizing the soil and slowing runoff from the impervious surfaces created by our homes and driveways. They filter nutrients such as phosphorus, sediments and pollutants as well provide valuable wildlife habitat. Shade created at the waters edge also enhances fish habitat.

A shoreline protection strip that will provide the most water quality benefits should cover 80% of the shoreline frontage and extend landward a minimum of 25 feet. Such shoreline protection strips are required in the Township for all newly developed properties abutting lakes, rivers or streams (Section 117.320 of the Township Zoning Ordinance). Shore land property owners who do not have an established shoreline protection strip are encouraged to develop one, even if not 25 feet deep. Other features of an effective protection strip could include swales, berms and rain gardens. Design features for Lake Michigan and Torch River frontage will be different than for Torch, Elk and Skegemog properties. A permit will be required from the Township before any earth change or removal of any vegetation within 25 feet of the average high water mark. Permits from the County and State may also be required and advice should be sought from Chris Weinzapfel, the Township Zoning Administrator (231- 264 – 6697). Additionally, advice on erosion control and the selection of native plant materials may be sought from Heidi Shaffer at the Antrim Conservation District (231- 533 – 8363).

There are also resource materials at the following websites:

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council - <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/>

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership - <https://sites.google.com/site/mishorelinepartnership/>

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay - <http://www.gtbbay.org/>

BELOW ARE 2 EXAMPLES OF POOR SHORELINE PROTECTION

