

MILTON TOWNSHIP-ANTRIM COUNTY

7023 Cherry Avenue, P.O. Box 309
Kewadin, Michigan 49648
www.miltontownship.org

231-264-6612

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

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

Going into 2017, the Township continues to be extremely strong and stable. There are many new and exciting changes in the Township as noted in the Park & Recreation section in this newsletter. Roads are a high priority and we continue to identify and improve as the budget allows. The recycling center has been running smooth; eliminating garbage being dropped off due to the installation of a monitoring system. We do ask that boxes be broken down so more efficient use of the containers are utilized.

As we welcome the warmer weather we experience increased traffic, people traveling & vacationing in our community, along with vacation related celebrations. It is important to take general precautions, by slowing down on the roads to ensure a safe summer. In addition to safety measures, it is important to be a considerate neighbor by making responsible decisions that affect your neighbors. As our community continues to grow and improve, common courtesy is essential in improving the quality of life for all.

CLEAN UP DAY

Milton Township provides two clean-up days, typically the last Saturday in April & August, each year at an approximate cost of \$20,000 annually. This service is provided exclusively for the taxpayers of Milton Township. The last clean-up day scheduled for this year is Saturday, August 26th from 7:00 am–noon at the corner of Cairn Hwy. and Cherry Avenue. We do not accept 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 through the Milton Township website or Elk Rapids Newspaper 1 to 2 weeks prior. Antrim County will host a household hazardous waste collection Day in Bellaire on Saturday, August 5, 9 am to 1 pm. For more information call 231-533-8363.

ROAD WORK

In 2017 Milton Township has plans to re-surface Campbell Road, Joe Marks Trail and a portion of Stallman Road (600 ft. off Cherry Avenue and 1960 feet off Western Road). Total project cost is approximately \$329,800.00 with Milton Township's portion of \$301,138.00 to offset our road millage revenue of \$307,992.72. 2018 Roads identified as needing repair and considered for next year are Hoopfer Road along with other roads yet to be determined for tar & chip resurfacing.

SANDRA BALL, CLERK

2016 proved to be a busy year for elections. Each year many voters have questions regarding ballots and voter registration. The State of Michigan provides great information on their website; <http://www.michigan.gov>. Under the search query type the word "Voter", this will give you several topics to choose from that will lead you to another page giving you the opportunity to narrow your search. Some of the choices include sample ballots, request and track your absentee ballot, verify your voter registration, upcoming elections, unofficial statewide election results, local election results along with many other useful topics and information. This link is also available on the Milton Township website; Miltontownship.org located under election information. We are pleased to announce that the State of Michigan has awarded grant money for new voting equipment and we look forward to using it in the 2018 election year.

LIZ ATKINSON, TREASURER

The Township's policy is to mail tax receipts only when requested by providing a self-addressed stamped envelope with your tax payment. If you prefer, we can email a receipt if an email address is provided with your payment. We also offer 24/7 unlimited access of all property values, taxes paid and status through our website; Miltontownship.org.

There are several ways to pay your taxes: in person during regular tax collection hours, placed in our secure side door drop box, by mail, or online through our website using a debit/credit card or electronic check. If paying online a 3% processing fee will be assessed for all credit/debit card payments and \$3.00 for electronic checks up to \$10,000 and \$10.00 over \$10,000. If you pay your taxes in person, it is appreciated if you bring in the entire tax bill for us to stamp paid.

Property tax bills are mailed twice each year: July 1 and December 1.

Summer taxes are payable from July 1 through September 14 without 1% interest accrued monthly.

Winter taxes are payable from December 1 through February 14 without 3% penalty assessed to March 1st.

Every March 1st, all unpaid taxes are turned over to the County for collection, therefore, are only payable to Antrim County. Payoff amounts can be obtained by calling the Antrim County Treasurer once settlement amounts are verified.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

The loss of shoreline vegetation is an increasing problem around Michigan lakes. The recreational value of our lakes has led to intense shoreline development and an increase of turf lawns down to the water's edge.

Storm water is the number one pollutant because it carries with it: sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, petrochemicals, and garbage because it runs off properties unchecked and does not soak in the ground to be filtered.

We need to replicate Mother Nature's designs and get runoff to filter into the ground using functional landscaping; recessed planting beds, raingardens, berms, swales or natural areas. Planting deep rooted perennials at the shoreline to help stabilize the banks and to absorb any pollutants in the reachable ground water will capture pollutants and utilize what they can. Adding a vegetated buffer in your landscaping at the shoreline can restore your shoreline to a more natural state while enhancing wildlife habitat and preventing erosion and runoff.

A natural shoreline is best, but if landscaping must be done, reduce turf grass, don't mow to the water's edge and plant native Michigan plants. Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water and we all have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater clean.

Before undertaking changes at your shoreline you may need a permit from Milton Township (Chapter 3 Township Zoning Ordinance), the Antrim County Soil Erosion Officer and/or the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

For additional information visit the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership website @ www.mishorelinepartnership.org

MILTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL BOOK

This beautiful hard bound, 8 1/2" 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.

Contact Milton Township @ 231-264-6612 to reserve a copy.

AMY JENEMA, ASSESSOR

Frequently Asked Questions Part II;

Where can I find the detail on my property?

Property record cards, which contain ownership information, visit history, land and building details, and other notes, and which display a property's valuation, are available on our website miltontownship.org. Select *Tax Data*, then select *click here*. (It looks something like this below)

Click here to access the 24/7 tax information for Milton Township.

You can also call (231) 264-6696 or email a request for a record (assessoamy@gmail.com).

What do the assessors look at when determining an assessment?

The assessor collects many data elements about a property in order to develop the total valuation. The most significant factors in determining the value are location and land area and style, quality, size, condition and age of the building(s). Other factors include amenities or detriments on the land as well as features in the building such as number of bathrooms, type of heating/cooling, interior/exterior finishes, and special features including fireplaces, saunas and Jacuzzis. Also considered are detached structures such as garages, decks, patios etc.

How can my assessed value increase (decrease) when I did not do anything to the property in 5 years and I am not selling the property?

The assessed value represents the estimate of market value of the property. The real estate market changes constantly. The assessment for 2017 represents the estimate of market value as of December 31, 2016. This estimate of market value is determined by examining sales of properties from October 1 2014 thru September 30, 2016. Although there may not have been any physical changes to the property, buyers may be paying more or less for properties than they were in previous years. The assessment changes reflect the changes in the purchase prices of similar homes in the neighborhood. The assessments do not predict market value. The assessments reflect (or report) market value. The real estate market can change dramatically from year to year. Buyers and sellers determine the market value of properties. The assessments reflect what the buyers and sellers are doing as of the assessment date.

Why did my valuation change from the prior year's valuation more(less) than my neighbor's? Market value changes occur in many forms. From year to year economic conditions and local factors change and influence the values of different classes of property in different ways. Buyers have different requirements and these requirements sometimes change from year to year. Renovations may have been performed on a property that would cause a change in assessed value different from a similar property that did not undergo renovations. A recent inspection by the Assessor's office also may have contributed to a change in assessed value, perhaps adding something that had been missed or reducing something that was overstated. Your style or size or land area or other factor(s) may differ from your neighbor's and that caused the valuation changes to differ.

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

An important part of the local government process is provided by residents who serve on Commissions and Committees. They make decisions about how our community develops, consider variances to local ordinances, make decisions about local property values and advise the Township Board in planning and creating parks & recreation facilities. Everyone benefits from the service of these dedicated residents. If you have an interest in serving, please submit your letter of interest along with a resume. Currently, we have all positions filled, but as openings become available we prefer to have applications on file and ready as the need arises. The various Commissions and Committees are; Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review and Park & Recreation Committee.

WATER/BOATER SAFETY

Have a fun & safe summer by making water safety a priority! Get familiar with the boating rules and regulations. The DNR Boater Safety Handbook is available through their website: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_10884---,00.html

CHRIS WEINZAPFEL, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Reminder to property owners who are renting their home on a Weekly basis **MUST** file an application with the Township. The permit application can be found online at www.miltontownship.org.

Zoning Information

- 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.
- 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 the primary.
- 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 Numbers

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

JEREMY BALL, FIRE CHIEF

The Milton Township Fire Department operates out of two stations. Station One is located at 7015 Cairn hwy and houses a Pumper, Tanker, Mini- Pumper, Rescue, and ATV. Station Two is located at 12105 Cherry Ave and 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. Please check with your homeowner's insurance agency to see how much your insurance premium was lowered due in part to this improved rating. The department strives in providing the best fire protection possible. We have several programs in place to help enhance the safety of our community. Knox Box, Smoke Alarm, 911 Reflective Address Sign and Water Point Sign program. We currently have 4 commercial and 4 residential Knox Boxes installed, 10 Smoke Alarms provided to township residents and have installed 3 Reflective Address Signs. To learn more about these programs please contact the department at 231-264-6694 or miltontwpfd@gmail.com.

New for 2017: We have a new rescue pumper currently being built for the department. We are expected to take delivery in December 2017. This truck will replace our rescue and one of our pumpers. This new apparatus will be handling fire suppression and rescue services. We are downsizing some of our apparatus and combining services without sacrificing the services we provide to our community.

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

Feel free to contact the department to let us know that you are indeed burning or contact the Fire Chief at 231-499-1720.

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 are a Milton Township resident or live close to the township and have an interest in serving your community by joining the fire department please feel free to stop in on Tuesday nights at 7 pm. If you have inquiries or request additional information on any of the above, please contact Chief Ball at 231-264-6694 or miltontwpfd@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook and check out our website at www.miltontownship.org.

PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE

The collaboration between The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) and Milton Township to secure funding for the acquisition of the Maplehurst property has been successful! This 400 acre former camp will be an excellent addition to Milton Township parks and another great recreational opportunity where people can go to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. The following is a summary of the financial agreement established to secure the property:

PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Approved Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant	\$ 1,875,300
Local Matching Fund Requirement for Grant	<u>824,700</u>
Property Purchase Price	\$ 2,700,000

GTRLC FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Funding of Local Match Requirement	\$ 824,700
Building Demolition and Land Reclamation Project	862,287
Initial Improvements to Park	50,000
Land Stewardship Endowment	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL	\$1,836,987

Milton Township will continue to work closely with the GTRLC on the development, management and communications plan for this project.

Milton Township has acquired the former Water's Edge Resort property at the north end of Elk Lake in Kewadin. Combining this property with two other parcels purchased in 2014, giving the township 446 feet of contiguous Elk Lake frontage. Property located across the street from the lakefront next to the old Town Hall was also acquired in 2014. It will provide room to enhance the space around the old Town Hall as well as public parking and access to the Township Recycling Center. The development plan for \$421,000 (\$295,000 grant/\$126,500 Township) utilizing these properties was submitted for a MNRTF grant in 2015 but was not awarded. A revised grant request was submitted in 2017 with award results expected this fall. If successful, The "Milton Township Waterfront Park" will be built providing an open-air pavilion, restroom facilities, drinking fountain, walkways, picnic tables & benches, landscaping and signage. The pavilion will be constructed using the existing lodge building and will be suitable for small or large group gatherings. It will have an observation deck providing a beautiful, elevated view of Elk Lake. A separately funded phase provided by grants from Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Community Foundation-Elk Rapids Area Community Endowment, Elk Rapids Rotary and Paddle Antrim for the overall project was completed in May 2017, which includes the installation of a Universal Access Kayak/Canoe Launch and improvements to the boat launch area. The Parks & Recreation Committee is currently working with the Antrim County Road Commission for storm water management, road end improvements, parking and cross-walk design.

The current wooden play structures located near the sports fields have worn out and will be replaced in July. They will be replaced with a four piece train, an ark and a tractor with a wagon. We hope the kids will be as excited with the new structures as we are with providing them!

The Park & Recreation Committee is always looking for innovative ideas to improve the Township parks. It provides planning and guidance for all recreation projects undertaken by the Township. Top priority in the coming months will be to update the Parks and Recreation Plan and to identify future grant applications for continuous improvements.

We encourage and welcome all comments, questions and concerns regarding Milton Township parks!

ELK RAPIDS DISTRICT LIBRARY

Milton Township supports the library through a .525900 millage rate that generates approx. \$162,666 annually. The Elk Rapids Library Planning Committee is updating their strategic plan to continue improving programs and services and plan for the future. This 16 question survey will be available through their website; www.elkrapidslibrary.org during the month of July. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey so they can better gauge user needs, satisfaction and who uses their library among other useful information. You can also sign up for their monthly email newsletter.

Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Michigan State Law* requires you to keep your boat free of aquatic plants and animals.

INSPECT EVERYTHING!

Be sure to check the following areas **before launching** and **before leaving** the launch site.



Don't forget to check your gear too!

* Section 224.43(2), Part 433, Transfer to use of the vessel on any waters of the State and if you are on a launch area of Part 433.44, 433.45, 1 of 1994 as amended.

REMOVE all aquatic plants and animals from your boat, trailer and accessory equipment before leaving the boating access site.

DRAIN live wells and bilges completely **before** leaving the boating access site. **Never transfer** water from one body of water to another.

EMPTY your bait bucket before leaving the boating access site, **but not** into the lake or stream

DRY your boat, trailer and equipment for several days **before** transferring your boat to a new lake or river.

If you must transfer your boat to a new body of water the same day:

WASH your boat and trailer thoroughly with very hot water. A car wash is a convenient way to accomplish this. Flush live wells, bilges and your motor's cooling system with hot water.



For information on clean boating, invasive species, and more, visit

www.watershedcouncil.org

