

# MILTON TOWNSHIP-ANTRIM COUNTY

7023 Cherry Avenue, P.O. Box 309  
Kewadin, Michigan 49648  
[www.miltontownship.org](http://www.miltontownship.org)  
231-264-6612

## **NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2019**

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; 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month,  
Planning Commission; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
Zoning Board of Appeals; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday as scheduled.

## **MILTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

As Milton Township residents, we can all take pride in the Township's direction. With a strong sense of community, strong public parks and recreation, managing the wants and needs of our constituents is a priority. As we look to the future, let us remember why we made the choice to live here. Past survey results show a strong desire to maintain the rural character of our township. Based on these results, all decisions pertaining to the direction of the township are made with this in mind. Milton Township has always been proactive in preservation, protection, management of zoning and planning in order to balance increases in population and development.

## **LON BARGY, SUPERVISOR**

Township government plays a crucial role in promoting a greater quality of life for our residents. At Milton Township, we strive to provide services that are useful and relevant for our community while maintaining the rural character that we all value. Roads continue to be a high priority and we continue to identify and improve as the budget allows. We welcome your input on your road needs in the form of calls, emails, or even stopping in to see us. Our goal, over time, is to improve all the roads in Milton Township. Wishing you a healthy, safe and happy summer! I welcome your comments and questions, so please feel free to call 231-645-0841.

## **IF YOU CHOOSE TO FERTILIZE YOUR LAWN, DO NOT FERTILIZE THE LAKE!**

Excess fertilizer, particularly phosphorus, running into the lakes from improper lawn fertilization is a major source of phosphorous and nitrogen runoff pollution. Fertilize at the right time and only when the lawn is actively growing and able to take up nutrients. Never fertilize when the ground is frozen or grass is dormant as most of it will runoff straight into the lake. Add a natural buffer of native plants to low areas. Vegetated buffer zones prevent erosion and pollution by acting as natural sponges and filters. Please be mindful of these harmful activities to our lakes.

## **ON SALE NOW**

A 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.

## **CLEAN UP DAY – SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019 FROM 7:00 AM TO NOON**

Milton Township provides two clean-up days, typically the last Saturday in April & August. This service is provided exclusively for the taxpayers of Milton Township at the corner of Cairn Hwy. and Cherry Avenue.

PLEASE NOTE: All smaller, loose items must be secured (tied or rolled up for easy drop off) Loads that are left loose & unbundled will have to wait until end of day. 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 only if decommissioned with the red tag for a disposal fee of \$30.00 and passenger tires only for \$6.00 each. You can verify these clean-up dates through the Milton Township website.

## **LIZ ATKINSON, TREASURER**

### Important Tax Payment Dates

<b>July 1, 2019</b>	Summer taxes mailed
<b>September 16, 2019</b>	Last day to pay summer taxes without interest
<b>December 1, 2019</b>	Winter taxes mailed
<b>February 14, 2020</b>	Last day to pay winter taxes without interest
<b>February 28, 2020</b>	Last day to pay all summer/winter 2019 taxes at the Township Hall- Postmarks not accepted.
<b>March 1, 2020</b>	Settlement of taxes begins-All unpaid taxes are turned over to Antrim County for collection.

There are 3 ways to pay taxes; by mail, placed in our secure drop box located at the side door entrance, or online through our website; [Miltontownship.org](http://Miltontownship.org)

## **SHORELINE PROTECTION STRIP ORDINANCE**

One of the most effective ways local communities can protect the water quality is to focus on the development and redevelopment of riparian properties along the shoreline and tributaries. The riparian zone is the area that has the most impact, with the focus of ensuring that storm water seeps into the ground before entering the lake, along with preventing nutrients and pesticides from getting into the water. As we look to the future, recognizing the importance of water quality has resulted in adopting a Shoreline Protection Strip Ordinance (117.320). This ordinance is one of many environmental protection efforts most recently adopted in Milton Township. This ordinance requires riparian land owners to dedicate a minimum of 25 feet in depth and extend to not less than 80% of the width of the shoreline property. Details can be obtained through our website.

## **RECYCLING CENTER**

Milton Township offers a 24 hour drop-off location, west of the old town hall, for the public to recycle their materials. Please break down cardboard boxes and remove all packing material. Please keep the area clean – NO TRASH. Do not leave items outside of the recycle containers. If it doesn't fit in the recycling bins, do not leave it. It takes a lot of man power when unauthorized items are left and it's discouraging that a handful of residents are not using the center properly.

## **TOWNSHIP ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Through the 2018 township road millage of .9852, Milton Township's budget designated for road improvements is \$324,500. In 2019 we have plans for Ringler, Bussa, West end of Indian, O'Dell and the first 1600 ft. of Erikson.

## **TIME OF TRANSFER ORDINANCE**

Milton Township is a sensitive ecological region due to the vast water resources of Lake Michigan, Elk Lake, Lake Skegemog, Torch Lake and Torch River. This location attributes to several unique natural features worthy of protection. We are committed to maintaining pristine water quality since it plays a vital role in recreation, tourism, property values, and the local economy. In 2012, Milton Township took an important step in the recognition of these resources by adopting the Septic Inspection and Property Transfer Ordinance. This ordinance requires evaluations of residential and commercial on-site water supply systems and on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems at the time of property transfer. More information can be obtained through our website via a link connecting you to the Health Department of Northwest Michigan website or by contacting the Milton Township Zoning Administrator.

## MAPLEHURST NATURAL AREA IS NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) transferred the Maplehurst Natural Area property over to Milton Township on 12/31/18. 2019 has been spent developing a long-term management plan, along with planning for boundary fencing, signage, trail construction and rules/regulations. Maplehurst is for non-motorized use, kids only fishing on Lake Maplehurst and no hunting is allowed. Maplehurst will boast a total of 6 miles of hiking/biking trails to be constructed over 2 years beginning in 2019 with 2.8 miles. A \$100,000.00 endowment has been established through the GTRLC for ongoing maintenance. Milton Township is seeking public input for the Maplehurst Natural Area.

Please share your thoughts regarding amenities, priorities, what features you like, what opportunities for growth you think exist, and what you hope to see in the future. Submit through the "Contact Us" portion on the home page of our website.

## SANDRA BALL, CLERK

2019 Election Information - Primary Election: August 6, 2019 – Election Day  
- General Election: November 5, 2019– Election Day

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Milton Township has 1 polling precinct @ 7023 Cherry Avenue, Kewadin, Michigan. For additional information contact the State of Michigan website; [www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633---,00.html)

## AUGUST BALLOT PROPOSALS

Ambulance Proposal – This is a renewal with a reduction to .76 mills from previous years 1 mill to continue supporting ambulance services for Milton Township residents.

Road Proposal – This is a renewal for an expired previous voted .70 mills, reduced to .6876 mills, to be renewed at the original voted .70 mills for 5 years; 2019 through 2023

Farmland and Open Space Proposal – To preserve local farmland & open space by imposing up to 1 mill for a program to purchase agricultural conservation easements. This effort would result in the protection of important landscapes and natural resources.

## JEREMY BALL, FIRE CHIEF

The Milton Township Fire Department is staffed with 16 men and women that are committed to serving the community with utmost professionalism. We operate out of two fire stations. Station 1 is located 7015 Cairn Hwy. Station 1 houses four apparatus and ATV. Station 2 is located at 12105 Cherry Avenue. Station 2 houses four apparatus.

We have multiple programs that are available to the public; 911 reflective address sign program provides reflective address signs to residents or businesses & a smoke alarm program. Our overall goals are to have each address have a reflective sign and to make sure each home has a working smoke alarm on each level and in each bedroom. Knox Box Key Secure program has been doing well too. We currently have 4 Knox Boxes being used for Commercial Business and 7 for Residential use.

Our ISO rating is a "6" for any home or business within five road miles of a fire station. Almost all of Milton Township has a 6 rating. Please check your homeowners insurance to see what your savings is on your policy. This year the department will be working hard to establish and certify more water point locations within the Township.

Outside burning. Please check the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/burnpermits](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermits) or contact the DNR @ 866-922-2876 to check on the availability of burning. Feel free to contact the fire station or the Fire Chief to let us know you are burning.

We are always looking for training opportunities within the township. Anytime we can train in the township at various places this really helps us out tactically in the event there is a fire or emergency. This even helps us navigate our apparatus in tight or long driveways. Please help us hone our skills through training; give us a call and let us train near you. The department is in need of more staff. If you have an interest and want to give back to your community and have the time to commit; the department needs you!! We hold meetings every Tuesday. The first Tuesday of the month is our officer & staff meeting at 6:30 & 7:30 pm. The second, third, and fourth Tuesday's are department trainings beginning at 7 pm. Please come out and be a part of a great organization.

If you have inquiries, requests, or have ideas on how we can serve you better, contact Chief Ball at 231-264-6694, or 231-499-1720, or email us at [miltontwpfd@gmail.com](mailto:miltontwpfd@gmail.com). Like us on Facebook

## CHRIS WEINZAPFEL, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

A few issues/answers from the zoning office:

- Milton Township is going through a revision of the Weekly Rental Police Ordinance that will affect all. The ordinance can be found on our website. Your input is welcome and can be sent to this office. A Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2019 @ 7:00 pm.
- Subdivisions within Milton have sets of DEED RESTRICTIONS that run with the land regardless if there is an association or not. Please review your restrictions because many are more restrictive than the Zoning Ordinance. The Township issues permits/enforcement based on the Zoning Ordinance and has no authority of enforcement over deeds. Any enforcement of deed restriction is through the courts by the association or an individual property owner within the subdivision.
- 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 zoning District.
- The 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](http://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 Time of Transfer Ordinance that requires inspection of the septic and water systems 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

Register of Deeds 231-533-6683

## BEACHFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Construction is scheduled to begin July 2019 for the development of the Milton Township Waterfront Park located on the north shore of Elk Lake. The total project cost of \$421,500 is the result of a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant award. Improvements include; access pathway, beach improvements, benches, drinking fountain, landscaping, adaptive reuse of the former resort lodge building to an overlook/observation deck with lower level restroom facilities, picnic tables, signage and trash bins.

## TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BOAT RAMP

Due to the construction of the beachfront project mentioned above, and the resulting construction site liability, the north Elk Lake boat ramp will be closed for the 2019 season. The universal access kayak launch will not be installed, nor will you be able to access the ramp. We apologize for the inconvenience, but we ask for your patience and understanding during the ongoing construction activity.

## KUDOS TO US!

A recent inquiry to Milton Township regarding the type, manufacturer and timing of pesticides and fertilizers we use on our soccer fields resulted in a proud answer; "We don't use any pesticides, fertilizers or anything!" You can't get any more eco-friendly than that!! Take a look for yourself; our soccer fields are lush and green! Consider this for your own lawn – it can make a difference to the environment – taking care of the environment begins in our own backyards!