

SPAULDING TOWNSHIP UPDATE Summer 2017



News from our Supervisor.....

We are starting something new, a Spaulding Township update which will be mailed twice a year. Your elected township officials would like our Spaulding residents to be updated and informed on the happenings in our community. Please remember to check out our website: www.spauldingtwp.com for up-to-date postings regarding special notices, many forms and helpful links that are available including garbage/recycling schedule, forms for deferment of Summer Taxes, the latest Water Quality Reports, applications for permits, and much more! Please note that our monthly regular Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month (unless otherwise posted): D.P.W. Board meetings begin at 6:00pm and Township Board meets at 7:00pm in the Township Complex boardroom located at 5025 East Rd (M-13, corner of Houlihan). You are most welcome to attend to express any concerns, or contact me personally at the office. We, the Board, are here to serve you.

Many of you are aware of our police department becoming dissolved. Please know that this was not an expected "challenge" that I thought would be part of serving you as a newly elected Supervisor. Nonetheless; this matter has been addressed for many months by the Board. There are many issues that occurred which we are unable to share at this point in time. However, please be rest-assured that Spaulding Township is in good hands! Your board has been working very hard at open communications with Sheriff Federspiel who has been extremely supportive.

We have been having police coverage not only from the County Sheriff Dept., but also the Michigan State Police. They will be utilizing our facility as a sub-station and using the parking lot/building at this point in time. So, you can expect to see many Sheriff and State Police vehicles in our township on a regular basis.

We are in the process of discussing and applying for a 3-year federal grant for police protection. Again, Sheriff Federspiel and his staff are assisting us with this possible grant.

In the meantime, we currently have immediate access to Saginaw County Sheriff, Michigan State Police, along with seven investigative detectives and a canine unit. If you have any type of urgent police, domestic, or civil issues, please call: 911. Dispatch will contact our local authorities and your issue, whatever it may be, will be addressed quickly.

Spaulding Township is also happy to announce that we are well-protected by our "Volunteer" Fire Department. Please read their article for recent updates which include up-to-code fire uniforms and a much needed fire engine. – **Ed Masters, Supervisor**

2017 SUMMER TAXES

Enclosed is your 2017 Summer Tax bill which is **due September 14, 2017 prior to close of business at 5:00pm**. If you have any questions, please contact me at the township office, 989-777-0950. If you qualify for a summer tax deferment, forms must be submitted by September 14, 2017 by 5:00pm. Forms are available at the township office or can be printed from our website: www.spauldingtwp.com You may pay your taxes by mail, place in the locked drop-off box located outside the office complex, or at the township office.

**Please make CHECKS payable to:
"SPAULDING TOWNSHIP".**

Regular office hours are:
Mon.-Fri., 9:00am – 5:00pm
Tiffany Fortier, Treasurer

******* JULY BOARD OF REVIEW *******

Pursuant to provisions of MCL 211.53b, the Spaulding Township Board of Review will meet on **Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 1:00pm** in the Township Complex, 5025 East Rd., Saginaw, MI. The purpose of this meeting is to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact and to hear poverty exemption applications.

MAY SPECIAL ELECTION

The special election on May 2nd was held to ask residents if the 18 mill levy on non-homestead property should be continued and funds used to support the Bridgeport-Spaulding School District. Voters in Spaulding rejected this proposal but voters in Bridgeport and Buena Vista Townships approved it. So, it will continue in all areas of the school district. Another proposal was to establish a sinking fund of 3 mills on all properties. This was rejected in Spaulding and Bridgeport. Therefore, this will not be included in your property taxes. The school millage of 6 mills has now ended. Your new property tax bill will reflect this reduction. – **Mark Seamon, Clerk**

++ FIRE DEPARTMENT ++

Currently we have 17 members and one in the probationary firefighter stage – he will begin classes this winter and after graduation will become state certified. We recently purchased new turnout gear (fire protective clothing) and helmets in order to be in compliance with federal regulations; but equally or more importantly, to have our volunteers safe while protecting you.

Last year we created a committee of Fire Department members to evaluate the status of our fire trucks. Results showed that 2 of our trucks needed to be replaced due to age and condition. We are replacing the 1972 Ford tanker and 1985 GMC engine with a 2017 Spartan engine. Our fleet now consists of the new 2017 Spartan engine, 1996 Freightliner engine, 2007 Chevy rescue squad, and 1987 Chevy brush unit.

Thank you for your continued support to keep our residents and property safe by accepting the new special assessment to purchase the new fire engine.

We are always looking for new members to join the Fire Dept. If you or someone you know is over 18 yrs. old and interested, please contact me at the township office. – **Thomas Fortier, Fire Chief**

CASS RIVER DIKE BOARD

With the new Spaulding Township Board, came many changes and this included the Cass River Dike Board.

The newly appointed Cass Dike Board is made up of Dick Leach, Chairperson; Steve Giltrop, Vice-Chair; Fred Rose, Jr., Secretary; and members Don Kinasz and Dave Hundley.

The board set project priorities with #1 being the construction of a dike running from the Cass River north bridge approach north to Wickes Park Drive on the west side of East Rd. (M-13). This will protect the residents in the north end of Spaulding Township. Priority #2 is to complete the dike on the south side of the Cass River from East (M-13) and connect to the Flint River Dike.

In order to proceed with these projects we have to work with the Wildlife Refuge on issues with constructing dikes on their property. We will continue to work with the Wildlife Refuge on this issue and also be looking at the dikes that have been constructed for maintenance issues.

SPAULDING TOWNSHIP D.P.W.

2016 SAGINAW REGION WATER QUALITY REPORT is provided to township residents annually to help you learn more about the quality of the drinking water that comes out of your tap. You will be receiving this report in a postcard format soon. The complete report will be available on our website and in our lobby. A lead and copper sampling was completed in 2017. No violations occurred.

(Spaulding Township D.P.W. continued...)

AN ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN will be formulated in conjunction with the Michigan Rural Water Assoc. as

required by the State of Michigan. The goal of asset management is to manage our township's assets in a cost-effective manner while planning for the future health and safety of our residents. More information will be available once the process is implemented.

SEWER RATES – Recently, we completed a sewer rate study in conjunction with Michigan Rural Water Association. Spaulding's sewer rates have not increased since 2003. However, in order to continue maintaining our current reliable sewer system, it is necessary to increase sewer rates. Historically, our sewer rates have been the lowest in our area. The **new sewer rate increase** consists of \$5.00 base rate PLUS \$1.00 increase for every 1,000 gallons of usage.

FLINT RIVER DIKE BOARD – EST. in 1985

After numerous floods in the 1980's, four townships came together; Albee, Taymouth, Bridgeport, and Spaulding, to form the Flint River Dike & Erosion Control Board in 1985. The board's purpose was to repair and maintain dikes that protected portions of these townships. Thirty years later the board has restructured the complete river dike system in the flood district. This restructured dike system has contained many high river flows that would have broken through the old system and flooded homes, roads and fields. The new flood protection system has two high flow reservoirs (160 acres total) that have seen flows high enough to be used as emergency spillways, and have been used twice since their construction. First in June 1996 and again in March 2017. Reconstruction was funded with the local flood district assessment money, allowing the board to match grant monies from the State and Federal governments. Reconstruction is complete and the loans have been paid. Current focus is on needed maintenance to the dike system. **Board members include:** John Spero, Chairman (Bridgeport); Dan Alderman, Vice-Chair (Spaulding); Dale Ferchau, Secretary Treasurer (At Large member); Bruce Albosta (Albee); and Duane Munson (Taymouth).

PLANNING COMMISSION

The commission consists of five members plus our Building Inspector that deals with zoning matters in this township along with any commercial properties that need addressing. Some of the work we've done recently were completing the Zoning Ordinance updates, and working with the owners of the Spaulding Convenience Store, the American Legion building at 3710 East Rd., zoning changes for Rose's Auto, and the Giant Public Market. Presently, we meet at least four times a year, but more if needed. For meeting dates and times, or other information, please contact the township office.