



Whitewater Township

July 2016

Questions, comments, ideas for future stories or to be added or removed from future electronic mailings? Contact: Della Benak @ Treasurer@whitewatertownship.org

Monthly Calendar

- 7/06 Planning Commission
- 7/11 Park & Rec Committee
- 7/12 Township Board
- 7/13 Historical Society
- 7/19 **Board of Review - 6:00pm**
- 7/26 Township Board
- 7/28 Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

Meetings at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.



Treasurer's Corner

Ardella M. Benak

Applications for deferment are available at whitewatertownship.org or the Township Hall.

Deferment of Summer Taxes

Summer deferment applications must be turned in before September 14, 2016. Payment of deferred summer taxes are due by February 14, 2017. If paid after this date, interest and penalties will be assessed.

Deferment of Winter Taxes

This deferment allows you time to pay your Winter taxes between March 1st and April 30th without penalty or interest. Contact Grand Traverse County Treasurer (231) 922-4735 or download from GTC website under Treasurer Forms.

Once you have received a summer tax deferment form, I will add you to a permanent listing to receive a form each year.



JULY 19, 2016 6:00 pm
BOARD OF REVIEW (JBOR)

No appointment needed



Primary Election - August 2, 2016

The Whitewater Township Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, August 2nd. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Township is providing outside canopies in case the weather is uncooperative. The Clerk's office will be using two laptops to electronically issue ballots to voters. We are hoping this will speed up the process and the wait time should be much shorter.

The last day to register to be able to vote in the August 2nd primary election is Tuesday, July 5, 2016. The Clerk's office will be open until 5:30 pm on this day.

Applications for Absent Voter's Ballot are available at the Clerk's office during regular business hours or can be mailed on request.

A sample ballot is posted at the Township or can be viewed on the Township's Website.

Cheryl Goss - Clerk



Veteran's Exemption FORMS

As mandated by state law, **Veteran Exemption Forms MUST be filed EVERY year** with the Township Assessor by the March, July or December Board of Review. You do NOT need to get a new form from the Veteran's Administration. As of 7/1/16 once you have received a Veteran's Exemption through the Township, I will add you to a permanent listing to receive a form each year.

Park and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)

In 2011 the Whitewater Township Board formed a Committee to oversee and guide the operation and future of our Township parks and recreational facilities. Their task was to develop a new recreation plan that would have a direct impact on the future development, beautification and preservation of our current and future Parks and Recreations not only for our current citizens, but for generations to come. We are pleased to say that the NEW Recreation Plan has been completed and has been placed on the Township website. The Park and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) is concentrating on Capital Improvements in the various parks and natural areas throughout the township. Specific improvements being looked at are flush toilets at the boat launch, stairs and playground equipment at the campground and playground equipment at Hi Pray Park. With the help of committed community members, the PRAC has been able to make improvements at the ball diamonds at Hi Pray Park. Williamsburg Little League teams can now use this ballfield because of these upgrades and improvements. Now that the Recreation Plan has been completed, the township will be able to apply for grants to help offset the cost for future upgrades and improvements. The PRAC meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Join them to keep up on what's happening with plans for future parks and recreations in Whitewater and to voice your opinions or wants for our parks. They welcome the input.



Supervisor's - Update

Friends,
I want to thank everyone who over the last few weeks has reached out to me and my family with assistance, condolences, sympathy, food and fellowship. The enormous outpouring of support from the community and surrounding area has been a blessing. Thank you!

The plans for proposed renovations of the Henry Matteson Fire Station at 8380 Old M-72 are nearing completion. A significant amount of research on the land has been completed and utilized deed information dating back to 1868. Over the years a number of easements have been allowed on the site and we now have a detailed site plan highlighting those encumbrances. The plan set should be ready for construction code approval in July with construction to begin late fall.

Grand Traverse Fire Department – Rural Division is preparing for more changes in membership. Green Lake Township and Grant Township have both expressed an interest in leaving the department by December 31, 2016. The two townships are evaluating the level of mutual aid available from contiguous neighboring townships rather than the closest Rural Station some 20 miles away. This issue was created when Long Lake Township left the department in 2015. Since Whitewater entered the Rural Agreement in 1996 we have had a similar distance scenario. Your Whitewater Township Board is taking this opportunity to assess the many different prospects of the Volunteer Fire Department Service.

The Road Commission has been hard at work on Williamsburg Road and Elk Lake Road. The repairs are progressing nicely. I received many comments from concerned citizens about the tree removal process. I feel the Williamsburg Road project struck a good balance between scenic beauty and road surface preservation. Other blacktop roads are receiving attention too. Crews are dura patching small areas of the driving surface that need extra care. Look for the big red truck towing the largest leaf blower you have ever seen. Gravel roads are in pretty good shape too. The first brine application was applied earlier than ever this year and is holding up well. Thank you to the Road Commission Staff for assistance with that.

The cleanup of the Lossie Road Trail and the Battle Creek Natural Area is running behind. Complying with Federal, State, and Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP-EMHSD) requirements has proven to be quite a challenge. The good news is the bid process is underway and we hope cleanup will begin soon.

Please think about joining one of the Township Committees. We have several opportunities to serve if you are so inclined. Please stop by my office or email me at Supervisor@whitwatertownship.org to learn more.

Enjoy a safe summer!

Ren Popp - Whitewater Township Supervisor



Planning Commission (PC) UPDATES

The Planning Commission (PC) is working on two large and time consuming projects.

1. The Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance has been in place since 1972. Over the years there have been amendments made along with changes in state zoning laws. The PC, along with the Zoning Administrator, Josh Vey, have been working to compile all of the changes into a more user friendly format. Please note: NO CHANGES to the ordinance is happening with these format updates!
2. Under the Board's direction, the PC is working on replacing General Ordinance 32 which regulates Private Roads/Private Drives with a less restrictive ordinance.

If you have questions or concerns regarding Ordinance 32 the PC meets the first Wednesday of each month. They welcome your questions and input.



Mark your Calendars

**Emergency Services
Auxiliary
Spaghetti Dinner!**

Saturday, September 10th from 4-7 pm at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Proceeds will be used in support of Emergency Services.

Bring your family and enjoy an evening out while supporting our Emergency Services personnel. We look forward to seeing you there.



Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

The Township has thousands of individual properties and a single Zoning Ordinance to regulate their use. The ZBA was created in recognition of the difficulty in applying a single ordinance to a wide range of properties, each with its own physical characteristics that may not fit comfortably within the Ordinance's requirements.

The ZBA is a quasi-judicial body authorized to review:

1. **Dimensional Variances**
2. **Use Variances**
3. **Interpretation of Ordinances**
4. **Appeals of Zoning Administrator's decision**

The ZBA meets the 4th Thursday of each month. We are in need of an Alternate for this Board. If you are interested, please contact the Supervisor: supervisor@whitwatertownship.org