



Whitewater Township

Newsletter



Winter 2017

This Newsletter can be found on the Township Website: whitwatertownship.org

Directory



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SUPERVISOR

Ron Popp ext. 23
Supervisor@whitwatertownship.org

CLERK

Cheryl Goss ext. 24
Mon thru Fri 9 am - 5 pm
Clerk@whitwatertownship.org

TREASURER

Ardella Benak ext. 22
P.O. Box 100
Hours: M-W-F 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Treasurer@whitwatertownship.org

TRUSTEE

Paul Hubbell
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Trustee02@whitwatertownship.org

TRUSTEE

Lloyd Lawson
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ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Denny Habedank ext. 21
Mon thru Thurs 8 am - 4 pm
Zoning@whitwatertownship.org

ASSESSOR

Dawn Kuhns - 231-409-1827
By Appointment
assessordawn@gmail.com

FIRE & AMBULANCE

Fire Hall 231-267-5969
Non-Emergency

PARKS & RECREATION

Ranger Station - 231-267-5091

PLANNING COMMISSION

Kim Mangus, Chair
231-631-2326

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Luann Snider, Chair
231-883-3193



Supervisor's - Update

Friends,

Another summer has come to a close and as projected, the summer of 2017 was extremely busy at the Township.

The renovations of the Henry Matteson Fire Station Building are finishing up. Thank you to Clerk Cheryl Goss and the rest of the worker crew for their endless efforts on this project. Plans are for all construction to be finished with the Emergency Services Personnel to have full use of the building and all settled in before Christmas. An open house has been discussed for 2018 when the weather is a little nicer.

New playground equipment was installed at Hi Pray Park over the summer. The new colorful pieces represent lots of hard work and effort by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) who did much of the installation work themselves! We hope your children and/or grandchildren had time to enjoy the park and its new equipment this past summer. The dedicated PRAC members are already planning for projects in 2018. Their meetings are generally held in the Township Hall on the second Monday of every month beginning at 7:00pm, Stop by one of them to see what they are working on.

The new flush toilet facility for the Whitewater Township Camping Park Boat Launch hit a snag with the County Health Department. Design requirements to accommodate peak summer usage were more complicated and overly burdensome than we anticipated. The project is back to the planning stages.

I want to thank the Kalkaska and Grand Traverse County Road Commission Board of Trustees along with the Clearwater Township Board and their staff for joining Whitewater Township in completing the Baggs Road Reconstruction Project on time and on budget. Many behind the scenes people were involved in this project. Without their contributions, the project would not have been possible! While no reconstruction project can address all the design sensitivities a project has, this one struck a balance between what needed to be done and what the four partners could afford to do.

The fire department organization which Whitewater Township belongs to, the Grand Traverse Fire Department - Rural Division, will cease operation on March 31, 2018, after more than 20 years of service to the community. I want to thank the responders who have made that department a success over the years. Your Township Board is currently working on administrative tasks that will authorize the township to organize and operate its own department, the Whitewater Township Fire Department. We are making good progress on these business items and expect to be ready for operation before the March 31st closing date of Rural Fire Department.

December is the time of the year when the Supervisor's office begins to recommend persons to fill various open positions on boards and committees. If you have any interest in serving, please stop by my office or email me at: Supervisor@whitwatertownship.org to learn more.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season

Ron Popp Whitewater Township Supervisor



8th Annual

Whitewater Township Christmas Tree Lighting Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 PM

The evening will start at 6:00 pm across from the Fire Station in Hi Pray Park with joyful music and light refreshments, followed by a countdown to light the tree and a visit by Santa.

Don't miss a Visit with Santa!

Santa arrives on the fire truck with lights flashing and horns blowing to place the first ribbon on the tree for Peace.

Everyone visiting Santa will get a small gift and an opportunity for photos.

We consider it a privilege to honor your loved ones!

We dedicate the Community Christmas Tree to all the men and women past and present and the families who have made the sacrifices in service to our country. At the time of the lighting, we invite each family that would like to place a ribbon on the tree in honor of their Military family member to come forward.

Ribbons will be available. You may bring your own ribbons decorated any way you would like.



WESA & Whitewater Campground Staff Team Up for the 2017 Community Halloween Party. What A Success!

The Whitewater Emergency Services Auxiliary (WESA) held their Annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 28th. There was good attendance; we estimated 300 despite the fact that it was cold and rainy at times. There were 18 campsites booked out of 44 available. Not bad for the 1st year being held at



the campground. Many attendees commented that it was nice to have the party in a location which was not so cramped. Being held outdoors with a carnival themed atmosphere was a new twist on a well loved tradition in Whitewater Township. **A BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all those that dedicated so much time to making this event possible for our community year after year!



Special thanks goes out to our Fire Department!

Without their help this event would be much harder. Plans are to stay at this location. Each year we try to add something new and exciting. So make sure you join us next year to see what we've come up with.



PREPARING FOR COLDER MONTHS

Stay in, go out, get out of town, dress warmly. A Michigan winter can be the best of times, with snow sports, snowmen and sleeping in on snow days. A Michigan winter can be the worst of times, with bone-chilling winds, drifts and dangerous driving. According to the early forecast from the Farmers Almanac, Michigan is expected to have a cold, snowy winter for 2017-2018, proclaiming, "Cold conditions are back!" The Great Lakes will see snowier-than-normal conditions.

- ♦ Winter is not the time to be fashion-forward. Ditch the heels, ladies.
- ♦ Own the best snow shovel. Keep walkways, ramps, driveways clear.
- ♦ Stay in when it's awful out. You really don't need that big Slurpee.
- ♦ If you have to go out, leave early. Plan for longer driving times.
- ♦ Get your car weather-ready. Put an emergency kit in the trunk.
- ♦ Don't complain. Look for good things about the temperature.
- ♦ When the Winter Blues hit, get away for a few days.
- ♦ Stock the pantry.
- ♦ Winter time can be a depressing time of year. Turn on your lights.
- ♦ Have some indoor fun. Institute game night.
- ♦ Remember, it's always worse somewhere else.
- ♦ If you are planning to travel, don't turn your heat off. Unless you want to return to frozen pipes.
- ♦ If you plow your driveway, do not plow across public roads/streets. It is dangerous for other drivers and you may get a ticket too.



2017 Year at a Glance

- Kim Mangus was voted Planning Commission Chairperson, replacing Brad Link. Thank you Brad for your service.
- Proposed changes to the Planning Commission Bylaws were approved.
- Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals member Matt Lyons passed away on December 6, 2016.
- A dangerous situation at the BCNA dam/pond has been remedied with new grates installed by Dennis Leach.
- The campground opened with the annual free camping weekend May 12 through 14.
- Cleanup Day held June 10th at Mill Creek School. American Waste, T-J Tires, and Erickson Salvage hauled it all away.
- Revisions to the Zoning Board of Appeals Bylaws were approved.
- Revisions to the Zoning Board of Appeals Rules of Procedure were approved.
- Authorized the purchase of playground equipment for Hi Pray Park, in the current fiscal year, in an amount up to \$12,838.00.
- Adopted resolution #17-01 Township Board Regular Meeting Dates for 2017/2018.
- Baggs Road Shared Construction Costs contract approved with maximum contribution of Whitewater Township to be \$92,405. Project completed July 2017.
- Accepted brining contract from Grand Traverse County Road Commission for 3 brinings at \$6,201 each. Two were applied in 2017.
- Adopted 2017/2018 budget 3/28/17.
- Cheryl Goss appointed to the position of Parks & Recreation Administrator for fiscal year 2017/2018, to be paid at an hourly rate of \$12.73 per hour.
- 04/18/2017 Fife Lake Township gave notice of Intent to Withdraw from Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department
- 04/18/2017 Springfield Township gave notice of Intent to Withdraw from Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department
- Sealed drawings for renovations of the Fire Station were received 4/21/17.
- Township Board granted Scott Carter an exception to the requirements of Ordinance 32, the Private Road Ordinance, based on hardship.
- MMR's Nick Bernelis (former Director of Northern Operations) passed away April 30.
- Tim Shaffer appointed to a 3-year alternate position on the Whitewater Township Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire 12/31/2019.
- Eric Render appointed to a 3-year term on the Planning Commission, term to expire 12/31/2019.
- Mike Jacobson appointed to the Planning Commission, term to expire 12/31/2018.
- Award a 3-year contract to Lawn-N-Order for lawn maintenance and spring and fall cleanup services
- Garrison Waugh's design won the new Whitewater Township Park logo contest.
- Annual Fiscal Year Audit of Clerk and Treasurer Offices conducted in June.
- Awarded renovation contract for 8380 Old M-72 Fire Station to Richter Construction \$383,563.63. Construction started July 2017. Scheduled to be completed in early December.
- Hi Pray Park playground equipment has been installed. PRAC volunteers excavated the playground area to enlarge and spread 80 cubic yards of beach sand. Many thanks to all the volunteers.
- Pavilion at Hi Pray Park has been repainted.
- Whitewater Township Board directs our Rural Fire representative to vote yes to dissolve the entity.
- Two 2% grant applications were submitted to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for park playground equipment upgrades and renovations of the current fire station. Neither application was successful.
- Summer 2017 tax bills mailed 7/1/17.
- Purchased used playground equipment from East Bay Township for Whitewater Township Campground Park.
- Medical Marijuana Facility Surveys mailed with summer tax bill 7/1/17.
- Miami Beach Special Assessment refunds mailed.
- Exterior cleaning of Township Hall siding & windows completed August 2017.
- Accept proposal from Wheelock & Sons for sandblasting and painting of township hall handrails, including removal and installation for \$3,813.75, completed August 2017.
- Installed fencing around the Township recycle bin area to contain debris.
- Hired Dennis Habedank at \$28/hour, 32 hours a week for Zoning Administrator position.
- Eric Render was elected as secretary for the Planning Commission.
- Township Board granted a lot line adjustment between the Beamish and Laramie parcels.
- Township Board approved the purchase of six park benches for Hi Pray Park and Battle Creek Natural Area.
- Annual Community Halloween party was moved to the Township Campground Park.
- Granted permission for Elk-Skegemog Lake Association (ESLA) to treat Purple Loosetrite at Whitewater Twp. Park at no expense to the Township.
- Special joint meeting held 9/21/17 with Fire Department personnel to discuss future of Whitewater Township Fire Department.
- Purchased a 12 x 16 shed, not to exceed \$4,000 with site preparation, for Whitewater Township Campground Park.
- Upgraded WIFI installed at the Township Hall.
- Completion of Medical Marijuana Facility Survey, 335 returned. Results can be viewed on Township web page. The township board opted out of allowing any licenses in the township, to be reviewed quarterly.
- The Rural Fire Board made a motion to dissolve the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department – Rural Division by March 31, 2018. Motion by Springfield Township and supported by Fife Lake Township. The motion passed by the required 2/3 vote of the full Board.
- A 2-person subcommittee of the board, along with members of the Fire Department was created to organize and create documents needed for the structure of a NEW Fire Department in Williamsburg.



Treasurer's Corner - Ardella Benak

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and to invite you, on December 5th at 6:00 pm, to the Christmas in the Park Tree Lighting Event. It is a wonderful way to kick off the season's festivities with family and friends

From my family to yours, here's wishing you a joyous holiday season.

Ardella M. Benak



Dates to Remember..... Please read the back of your TAX BILL for important information

Winter Tax bills are due without interest by	February 14, 2018
Summer 2017 Deferment bills are due without interest by	February 14, 2018
A 1% interest fee is charged each month for delinquent Summer Taxes starting	September 14, 2017
A 3% interest fee is charged for all Summer & Winter 2016 delinquent Tax bills starting	February 14, 2018
<i>Treasurer's office accepts postmarks and partial payments. Only the exact amount is accepted when paying with CASH.</i>	
<i>Please contact me if you should have any questions. I am always happy to help.</i>	

"Details, Details" . . . From the Clerk

Season's Greetings to all!

With only one election in 2017 (May), the clerk's office has had less people traffic this year, but rest assured that Terese and I have been busy on your behalf! It's been a good time to get some extra things done that we don't normally have time for.

However, we will definitely have more than one election in 2018 (August and November for sure), and the exciting news is that we have all new voting equipment! We have two new tabulators (where you feed your ballot in) and one new ADA ballot marking device. I'm hearing from counties who have already implemented this equipment that the election workers and the public love it! So we are very excited to be able to use this new equipment in 2018.

We also had a wonderful year at Whitewater Township Park and the rest of the parks in the township. Improvements were made! People saw and they came! Unfortunately, the planned flush toilet facility at the boat launch came in way over budget and had to be shelved for now. The silver lining there is that we have turned our attention to improving the launch, as in a longer dock and, if things go well, perhaps a second dock to ease launch congestion. But that project will take some major design work, and a completion date cannot be forecasted at this time.

In the meantime, Terese and I extend our sincere wishes to all of you for a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



Cheryl Goss

Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator

Zoning Department - Denny Habedank

Hello Everyone:

Almost everyone asks: Why do we have a Zoning Ordinance? The fundamental purpose of the Zoning Ordinance is to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the inhabitants of the township and to assist in realizing the community goals, policies and objectives expressed in the Township's Master Plan.

The Ordinance is designed to help promote the orderly development of the Township by encouraging the use of lands and resources of the Township in accordance with their character and adaptability. In the end, the Ordinance is really attempting to help secure our safety from fire and other dangers and lessen the hazards to life and property.

For example, the Ordinance controls the construction of many different structures in the township, such as: sheds, decks, new homes, garages and storage buildings, to name just a few. So far this year, we have issued 53 land use permits, with the majority of those being new homes. The next three types of structures are storage buildings, sheds and decks. The Ordinance also controls the required setback from lakes, rivers and streams, and all of our setbacks are measured to the edge of the eave and not to the foundation. Normally, all parcels of land have required setbacks from right-of-ways and property lines.

Hint: It is always better to call and check on the setbacks than to assume what they are.

If you have any questions about the Ordinance and its meanings, please contact me at the Township Office and we will discuss your concerns and questions. I am normally available at the Township office Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Merry Christmas,

Denny Habedank, Zoning Administrator
Whitewater Township
(231) 267-5141

