

SANDSTONE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

December 2020 Newsletter

Township Meetings

Residents are always welcome and encouraged to participate in Township Board Meetings and Planning Commission Meetings. Due to COVID-19, meetings may be done by video conference using Zoom or teleconference. To attend meetings remotely, you will need to get access information from Keith Acker before each meeting. The Board meetings are typically the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. Both the Planning Commission and Board meeting dates are listed on the Sandstone Charter Township web page. Meeting minutes are also posted on the web page.

Check out our web page: <http://www.sandstonetownship.org>

Road Information

The Jackson County Department of Transportation pays 30% of the cost paving local roads. The Township pays 70% of the cost. The townships portions are listed below.

Year	Roads	Township Cost
2014	N. Sandstone, Wellman (south part)	\$ 119,824
2015	Benn, Bennett, Gardner, Miner, Rogers, Wellman (north part)	\$ 295,864
2016	Chapel (part), Miller, N. Sandstone, Pomeroy, S. Harrington, Stepladder	\$ 288,657
2017	Maines, S. Sandstone, Leora Lane, Cuff	\$ 373,041
2018	Glasgow	\$ 233,751
2019	Bailey Road	\$ 172,785
2020	Thorrez and James McDivitt Rd	\$ 75,079
2020	Rolling Meadows roads to County Roads (Special Assessment)	\$ 251,388

TOTAL

\$1,810,388

The

northern portion of Blackman Road (from Springport road north) is scheduled to be done in 2021. Since Blackman is a boundary road between Sandstone and Blackman Townships, the cost will be shared. The southern portion of Blackman (Springport to Michigan Ave) is designated as a County road and the County is responsible to cover the repair cost.

Any road issues can be reported to the Jackson Department of Transportation (517-788-4230). This winter the Jackson County snow plow trucks can be tracked. The Jackson Department of Transportation has initiated snow plow truck tracking on their web site. Just do an internet search for "Jackson County Plow Tracker" and you can see current information on what roads have been plowed and where the snow plows are working.

2020 Winter Taxes

Please contact the treasurer's office at 517-784-4712 extension 4 if you do not receive a tax bill or have questions about your taxes. If the office is closed due to COVID-19 there is a drop window next to the entrance door. We hope the office will be open on Fridays until 5:30 PM during tax collections. Please pay your taxes before Feb 14, 2021 to avoid interest charges. After Feb 28, 2021 payments can only be paid at the County Treasurer's Office.

Elections

There was a great turn out for the November election. There were 1138 absentee ballots mailed out and 1092 returned. The total number of registered voters in the Township is 3161 and 2372 voted. This is an amazing 76% turn out. For your convenience the township installed an election drop box in the township's west parking

lot which several people used. Please only use this drop box is for ballots, not taxes. Many thanks to the election works that worked very hard to make a safe and clean election environment. Your newly elected township board members are Kim Britten, Clerk and Chris Crisenbery, Trustee. All Board members are listed at bottom of this letter.

Parma Sandstone Fire Department

Our Fire Department is staying busy. The runs for each year are: 2016 (651 runs), 2017 (682 runs), 2018 (657 runs), 2019 (720 runs) and this year through November 658 runs and it is expected we will exceed 700 runs again. We currently have 23 active volunteer Emergency First Responders/Fire Fighters. The new Engine #3 is being built and expected to be delivered in early 2021. The new grass truck is in service. Chief William Engelter is accepting applications for those interested in becoming involved in the fire department or in the Cadet program for students 15 to 18 years old. Our dedicated Parma Sandstone Fire Department personnel provide us with essential services during COVID-19, so when you see one of them, please thank them for their service.

Police Protection

Through Oct 2020, the officers assigned to Sandstone Township continue to provide a valuable service of being present and available in our township. They have responded to 468 complaints, made 125 traffic stops, written 69 speeding tickets and made 13 arrests. If you are going on a vacation and would like your home checked while you are gone, fill out a Jackson Sheriff House Watch Form at the Township Hall or on the Township Web page under the "Community Info" tab.

Township Clean-Up Date

Township spring cleanup day is planned for May 1, 2021 (9AM to 1PM) at the Township Hall. We have not been able to get commitments from the companies we work with so please watch for a possible date change on our electronic sign, web page or call in the spring before end of March. Residents can bring their trash to the Township Hall parking lot for disposal during these clean-up events. We accept trash (not garbage), furniture, appliances, metal, and batteries. We do not take paint or hazardous waste. We have not received commitments on tire disposal or the paper shredding truck at this time for the spring cleanup (stay tuned). Special thanks go to the volunteers that worked at the fall cleanup: Dave Jonas, From the Fire Department: Oscar Placher, Spencer Engelter, from the Township: Keith Acker, Dwight VanWinkle, Terry Langston, Jeff Hale, Betty Sue VanWinkle, Ken Powers, Kim Britten, Linda Rogers. As always Emmons sent great workers: Johnny Wilers, Gary Worden, James Kloepfer. If you can help during spring or fall cleanup please let us know.

Best wishes to Priscilla (Pixie) Sterrett . She is retiring after 55 years of serving the residents of Sandstone Charter Township. She will be missed by all.

Our Township Office number is 517-784-4712 Fax 517-784-2605 Hours 9 AM to 4 PM Monday-Friday. (Note during tax collection time the Friday hours are extended to 5:30 PM).

Your elected Township Board Officials:

Clerk, Kim Britten	Treasurer, Betty Sue VanWinkle
Trustee, Chris Crisenbery	Trustee, Cheryl Marks
Trustee, Jeff Hale	Trustee, Dwight VanWinkle

Wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Keith Acker, Supervisor Cell: 517-812-9441