

SANDSTONE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

December 2022

7940 County Farm Rd. Parma, MI 49269

Phone: 517-784-4712

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www.sandstonetownship.org

Township Meetings

Residents are always welcome and encouraged to participate in Township Board Meetings and Planning Commission meetings. The Board meetings are typically the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. Planning Commission meets every other month at 6:00 pm. Both Board meeting and Planning Commission meeting dates, and minutes, are listed on the web page <http://www.sandstonetownship.org>

2022 Winter Taxes

Winter tax bills will be mailed the first week of December. The township can accept payments up to February 28, 2023. After that the payment has to be made at the Jackson County Treasurers office. Please note to avoid a 3% penalty charge, plus an interest charge, payment must be received in our office by February 14, 2023. The postmark on mailed payments does not avoid these penalties or interest charges. We accept cash or checks only. We also have a drop box by the front door, for your convenience. Property owners that are in the Northwest School District will see a larger than normal winter tax bill due to the schools request to not place their school tax on the summer tax bill. Therefore, the winter tax bill will have the school tax included. Please contact the treasurer's office at 517-784-4712 ext. 3 if you have any questions, or do not receive a bill. Hours for tax collection are Monday – Thursday 9-4, Friday 9-5:30

Police

The Township continues to contract with the Jackson County Sheriff's department to provide a Deputy to be assigned to Sandstone Charter Township. This service is possible by the voter approved millage of 0.5 mills which covers approximately 82% of the contract cost. The balance is paid out of the township's general fund. This millage for police services was approved at the August election.

Elections

There was a very good voter turnout at the November election. There are 3164 registered voters in the township and 1979 voted which equates to a 62.55% voting. There will be a Jackson County Intermediate School District, Special Education Millage Renewal Proposal on May 2, 2023.

Parma Sandstone Fire Department

The Fire Department is always looking for more personnel to serve the community and there is a cadet program for youth between 15 to 17 years old. Also openings for paid on call fire fighters and medical first responders for those over 18. If you, or someone you know, is willing to serve the community in this manner, please contact the Fire Department at 517-531-4595. The department has made 825 runs year to date. We had three structure fires this year and 49 car crashes in Sandstone. The I-94 construction for the next two years will continue to be a challenge for the fire department to respond to accidents. Please be careful out there.

Township Clean Up Day

At our fall clean up Emmons filled 4 garbage trucks with 17.6 Tons of unwanted "stuff", at a cost of \$1,929.93. We also received \$391.25 for the collection 6,260 lbs. of scrap metal.

Special thank you to everyone that volunteered.

Volunteers: William Engelter, Michael Hunter Justin Davis, Spencer Engelter, Christopher Ebie. Jeremy Poole,, Linda Rogers, Kaye Paluch, James Kloepfer, Tyler Saucedo, Johnny Wilkes, Donnell Cannons, ,

Township Trustees: Chris Crisenbery, Jeff Hale, Dwight VanWinkle, Betty Sue VanWinkle, Kim Britten

Spring Clean Up Date: May 13, 2023 from 9am – 1pm. Tires will be taken in the spring and the tire grant we are seeking includes working with Spring Arbor Township to bring their tires after 12 noon.

Fall Clean Up Date: Fall clean up is planned for September 23rd. The paper shredder truck will be requested, but please check in the fall to see if we will have this service.

Assessing

Julie Pulling is our Township Assessor. She is in the office Monday and Wednesday 9am – 4pm and can be reached at 517-784-4712 ext. 6, with any questions. If you need to see her in person, please call ahead as her position requires her to occasionally go out in the field. The Michigan State Tax Commission requires that properties in the township be physically inspected on a rotation basis to verify any loss, or new construction. Each year properties selected for inspection receive a letter in the spring to notify you of her upcoming visit. She will measure the outside of your buildings, but she will not request to enter your home. Julie will ask you to verify information such as number of bedrooms, bathrooms, type of heating etc. If you are not available when she visits, she will complete the outdoor work and leave a questionnaire for you to complete and send to the office. Thank you in advance. The State has determined the factor to be used to increase your assessed value for 2023 is the max allowed by law of 5% This is a factor of the inflation that is occurring. Everyone in the state will see this increase. We can only encourage people to plan for this increase in their 2023 taxes.

Roads

The Township Board continues to spend money on our roads and it is a never ending process. We are trying hard to avoid asking for a road millage, like other townships have found necessary. Since 2014 we have, on average, spent \$260,931 per year on roads. Roads repaired in 2022 are: Benn Road (from Wellman to Rogers), Bennett Rd, Corwin, Ellis Drive, Miner Road, Muma, N. Harrington, and Wellman (from County Farm to Benn). The final sealing has been delayed till spring of 2023. This work cost the township \$304,956. We are concerned about the rising cost of everything for next year's road work. If you have road issues, please contact Jackson Department of Transportation at 517-788-4230, or let us know at the township.

High Speed Internet

The Township is working with Advance Communications Cabling, Inc. to apply for grants to install high speed internet through out the township. They are also working with nine other Jackson County townships to install fiber. Grant notifications will not be released until Spring of 2023. This will be a long process and the township board will continue to look for the best way to improve internet service.

Building & Zoning

Our building and zoning official is Bryan Powers. He can be reached at (517) 937-8205 or e-mail powersb1820@outlook.com for any building or permit questions.

Township Board Members

Supervisor: Keith Acker Cell 517-812-9441 lkacker1@gmail.com

Clerk: Kimberly M. Britten 517-784-4712 ext. 4 clerk@sandstonetownship.org

Treasurer: Betty Sue VanWinkle 517-784-4712 ext. 2 treasurer@sandstonetownship.org

Trustees: Cheryl Marks, Dwight VanWinkle, Jeff Hale, Chris Crisenbery