



# Portsmouth Township Newsletter

Summer 2023

## PORTSMOUTH TOWNSHIP

### OFFICE HOURS

***Monday through Thursday***

8:00 A.M. to Noon (except holidays)

***Closures will be posted on the office door and on the answering machine.***

ADDRESS: **1711 W. Cass Avenue Road  
Bay City, Michigan 48708**

OFFICE TELEPHONE: **989-892-7221**

TRASH PROBLEMS: **1-800-796-9696  
(until 5:00 p.m.)**

## TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

(cell)

(cell) 989-239-6583

**Township Office: 989-892-7221**

**Township Official's Home Phones:**

Supervisor: Robert Pawlak

Clerk: Judy Bukowski 989-295-0979

Treasurer: Kevin Kokaly: 989-450-0245

Trustees:

Gene VanDriessche.....989-274-3306

Barb Pett.....989-894-2277

Nance Corrion.....989-893-9817

James Banaszak.....989-909-0072

## ASSESSOR

Patti Peltier—Office hours: 8:30 a.m. till noon on Wednesdays—892-7221. She may be reached at home, most days, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at 989-684-4863

## MEETINGS

**The Township Board** meets the third Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Township Hall's conference room, 1711 W. Cass Ave. Rd.

(home) 989-893-5623

**The Planning Commission** meets on the second Thursday of March, May, June, July, August, Oct., and Dec. at 6:00 p.m. in the Township Hall. Additional meetings may be held if necessary. The Township Zoning Administrator is Joe DeWyse: 989-545-0434

## PERMITS

No permits are issued at the Township Office. All of our inspectors are part time and conduct business from their homes.

**Permit applications are available in the entrance of the Office.** The inspectors' numbers are listed below:

## INSPECTORS

989-233-1720

**Building Inspector: Ken**

DeWyse.....989-545-9675

**Electrical Inspector:**

Ken Kaczmarek.....989-893-0039

**Plumbing and Heating Inspector:**

Jon Morse.....989-239-0433

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief: Randy Stefaniak

(Home) .....989-894-0002

(Cell) 989-529-8737

Recorded Message.....989-892-0642

Reporting Fires and Emergencies.....911

## TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL INFO

**Hall rental is available to Township**

**residents only.** Reservations can be made

by calling the Township office (989-892-7221)

during regular business hours. **A date will only be 'held' after receipt of a deposit and signed contract.**



### MISC. INFORMATION

#### **STREET LIGHTS**

If a street light in your area is out, please call:  
1-855-477-9027

#### **TRASH INFORMATION**

**REMINDER:** Trash should be placed at the road side by 6:00 a.m. on the pick-up day. No trash should be out prior to 6:00 a.m. the day before pick-up. (Our "24-hour rule")

#### RECYCLING GUIDELINES:

- Number 1 thru 7 plastic containers (rinse, discard lids, flatten)
- Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars (rinse & discard lids please)
- Tin, aluminum cans, empty aerosol cans (rinse before recycling)
- Newspaper, junk mail & magazines catalogs & OCC (Break down and flatten cardboard and place next to the bin, 2'x2' size limit)
- Recycle collection will take place **bi-weekly** on the same day as the rubbish collection.

**DUE TO HOLIDAYS, YOUR TRASH AND/OR RECYCLE WILL BE PICKED UP ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS:**

*Note: The township hall is free (if available) to any township resident celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, or 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

Saturday July 9, 2023 - Trash

Saturday September 9, 2023 – Trash & Recycle

Saturday November 25, 2023 – Trash & Last yard waste pick up

Saturday December 30, 2023 - Trash & Recycle

***PLEASE DO NOT PLACE GRASS CLIPPINGS, BRANCHES, OR OTHER DEBRIS IN DITCHES FROM THE TREASURER --Kevin Kokaly***

#### IMPORTANT NOTE TO TAXPAYERS

**1<sup>st</sup> State Bank, 601 N. Madison Ave, Bay City will be collecting tax payments.**

You will be required to take your tax bill to the bank when making tax payments. The bank's phone number is 989-322-7500.

Taxes, as usual, can also be paid at the township during working hours or they can be left in the drop box just inside the glass doors. Payments can also be mailed to the township at 1711 W. Cass Ave, Bay City MI 48708. If you would like a stamped receipt mailed back to your home, please

leave me a small note and I will comply.

**SUMMER TAX BILLS** will be mailed out around the first week of July and are due and payable by September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ONLINE PAYMENTS:** Go to [Portsmouthtownship.com](http://Portsmouthtownship.com) and use the PAY TAXES link. Bank fees apply.

If your taxes are paid by a mortgage company forward them a copy of your bill so they can make payment through your escrow account.

Deferments for agriculture property, senior citizens, and disabled individuals need to be received at the township hall by September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**A few Notes from your Fire Chief, Randy Stefaniak**

**Have you ever considered becoming a firefighter?**

Portsmouth Township Fire Department is currently accepting applications. From time to time as current firefighters leave, move away or retire we have openings. It is a big commitment. You would be required to attend the Fire Academy and a Medical First Responder class. There is also monthly in house meeting and training. While the commitment is great, the rewards are even greater. The satisfaction of helping someone on the worst day of their life, the camaraderie of working with a great group of firefighters in your community, the challenge of learning something new, or just knowing that you are making a difference makes it all worthwhile.

If you would like to be a firefighter or would just like to know more about it, contact myself or any of the officers or firefighters.

**Requirements**

- 18 years of age or older
- High School Graduate
- Valid Driver's license with a good driving record.
- In good physical condition and able to pass a physical

Applications are available at the Fire Department, Township Office, or I will e-mail one if you contact me at ptfd1800@gmail.com.

**Have a Great Summer**  
**Randy Stefaniak, Fire Chief**

ptfd1800@gmail.com

FROM THE SUPERVISOR -Bob Pawlak

**ROADS UPDATE:**

*Work scheduled for this summer includes:*

- Trumbull Road – Cass to Bullock (0.9 miles)
- SE Boutell Road – Munger to Russell (1.0 mile)
- Mielens Road – German to Young's Ditch (2.0 miles)
- Halstead Road – Knight to Jones (0.9 miles)
- Jones Road – German to Young's Ditch (2.0 miles)
- SE Boutell Road – Cass to Young's Ditch (1.0 mile)

**WEEDS AND TALL GRASS:**

The township has an enforceable Weed Ordinance, but we'd rather not spend your tax dollars on following up on "weed violators."

Please keep weeds and even tall grass cut throughout the growing season. **There is no "cut by date" for weeds and tall grass...they need to be cut and maintained always.** *Failure to do so will result in the township contracting to have your grass/weeds cut and any associated costs placed on your tax bill.*

**TRASH COLLECTION UPDATE:**

Well, our transition to the new trash bins is almost complete. Everyone should have received the bins by now. If you have any questions, at this point, you should contact Waste Management directly. ***Please remember that on recycle day, you need to leave at least 3 feet between the 2 bins, so the driver can access them easily.***

**IMPORTANT "TRASH" NOTE:**

If there is a situation where your area was "missed" for whatever reason

**(things happen), please contact the township asap (by 5 pm, preferably). If we catch this early enough, the problem may be resolved the same day. If not, you will need to check our Facebook site, Website, or the recorded message at the hall.**



## **FROM THE CLERK – Judy Bukowski**

**Proposal 2 of 2022 "Promote the Vote" passed at the November 8th, 2022 General Election. It will amend the state constitution to add provisions in regard to elections.**

- Recognize fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct;
- Require military or overseas ballots be counted if postmarked by election day;
- Provide voter right to verify identity with photo ID or signed statement;
- Provide voter right to single application to vote absentee in all elections;
- Require state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes, and postage for absentee applications and ballots;
- Provide that only election officials may conduct post-election audits;
- Require nine days of early in -person voting (*a minimum of 72 hours - only required for State and Federal Elections*);
- Allow donation to fund election, which must be disclosed;
- Require canvass boards certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast.

**Early voting is required for State and Federal elections and can be consolidated between the townships, the city and the county clerk. The Bay County Clerk is currently working with all the Clerks of the county to do just that - if**

their jurisdiction wishes to participate. The costs will be split among all participants, this is a huge cost savings in comparison to having to staff and run an early voting precinct for one jurisdiction for those 9 extra days. If you would like to be trained as an election inspector for the upcoming elections, please contact me or the County Clerk, Kathleen Zanotti at: [ZanottiK@baycounty.net](mailto:ZanottiK@baycounty.net).

**Another change** is that in addition to maintaining the permanent absentee voter list through the Qualified Voter file, you will also have the option to be on a Permanent ballot list. Many of the details are yet to be worked out at the State level. One of these is how they will provide the postage for both the absentee applications and ballots.

**What hasn't changed** is the fact that if you are on the permanent absentee voter list you will still receive your application to return - with signature for a ballot. The form may be changed to allow for the selection of being on a permanent ballot list in the future. Residents will still be able to vote on Election Day at the same precinct as last November - *if you haven't moved*. I wanted to share as much information as we have at this time. Will put updates on the township webpage and the next newsletter as this all progresses.

***I know that this is a lot of information and somewhat hard to understand. We as clerks are still learning the ins and outs of these changes. If you have questions you can contact me at the office 989-892-7221 during office hours and I will do my best to get answers for you. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE WHILE WE ARE ALL WORKING TO IMPLEMENT THESE CHANGES!!***

**The Presidential Primary is scheduled**

**for February 27, 2024.** Absentee

Applications will be sent out early in

December 2023. Just a reminder that

this is the election that you have to

request either a Republican or Democrat

ballot.

Thank you.

**Judy F. Bukowski - Clerk**

# “Things You Should Know...”



Portsmouth Township does have a presence on Facebook. Not only does our Fire Department have a Facebook page, but the Township itself has a page that is used to disperse information. Office closings, issues with trash pick-up (including reminders of delayed pick-ups due to holidays), are just some items that are noticed on Facebook. Not everyone utilizes Facebook®, so it is helpful if you pass along info to your neighbors. Also, the site is not designed to be a “dialogue”, only a means to put out information. If you have township-related concerns, you should still notify the office and not reply on Facebook.

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Along the same lines, the township does have a **Website** to access pertinent information and save yourself a call to the office. The site includes the Master Plan, meeting minutes, contact information for officials, and other useful and interesting information. In the future, the township’s Zoning Ordinance will also be available on the site as well. It is a work in progress, but our goal is to load it with as much as we can for the benefit of township residents, in this hi-tech world.

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Although we are still working the bugs out, our **electronic road-side sign**, obtained with ARPA funds, is also a tool that we are using to get information out to our residents. Please check it out as you drive by.

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**Facelift:** If you haven’t noticed, your township hall received a new roof last summer. It looks awesome! This spring, the pavilion was upgraded after over 30 years. This much-used structure was originally built by the volunteer efforts of our own fire department approximately 40 years ago.

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## Master Plan/Zoning Ordinance

The township is required to update its Master Plan every 20 years and the Planning Commission is in the process of doing just that. The purpose of the Master Plan is to guide future zoning ordinance amendment decisions and cover anticipated development of the township over the next 20 years. The process will take 8 to 12 months to complete.

The township’s zoning ordinance is also in need of updating and this, too, is a lengthy process and will begin upon completion of the Master Plan process.

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## RAILTRAIL:

**Use it! Keep it clean!** Keep dogs on a leash and clean up after them. Warn others if you are approaching from behind. No motorized vehicles ever (bikes, scooters, etc.)

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## **TOWNSHIP HISTORY**

Pics, stories, artifacts...please contact me! Still looking for a picture of our original township hall. I'd like to hang it in our lobby, if I ever get one. Looking for stories and anecdotes about days gone by in the township. If you would like to share, I would love to hear from you.

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## **DUMPING**

We are getting a rash of incidents of people dumping garbage and debris along the sides of roads and even in ditches. If you see this happening, please call 911. If you are able to get a license number, or safely take a picture of this happening, that would be helpful. Let's keep our township clean!