

BROOKS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

TRASH DAY 2017

Brooks Township's annual trash day will be held on June 3, 2017. There will be more information regarding this event in the spring newsletter.

TOWNSHIP CALENDER

Dec.	13	Township Board Mtg.
	19	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Jan.	17	Township Board Mtg.
	23	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Feb.	21	Township Board Mtg.
	27	Planning Comm. Mtg.
	28	2017 Property Assessments are mailed
	28	Property Taxes are due
Mar.	15	Township Board Mtg.
	20	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Apr.	18	Township Board Mtg.
	24	Planning Comm. Mtg.

Meetings are at the township hall and begin at 7:00 p.m.

WINTER TAX BILLS

Please look over your winter tax bill when you receive it for any corrections that need to be made. Your bill will state that the "P.R.E. Exemption Has Reduced This Bill By: 0." This is because the P.R.E. Exemption is factored into the summer tax bills. Taxes are due on February 28, 2017. If you have any questions please call Christina Haynor, Treasurer at 231-652-6763, ext. 130.

NEW FACES ON THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

The township board would like to welcome Ken Page, Jr. and Ryan Schultz as our new trustees. The township board would like to thank Mike Bouwer and Kim Roehrig for their service to the residents. Mike has been a trustee since 2012 and Kim since 2014. They both have done a tremendous job.

FROM THE ZONING DEPARTMENT

There has been an increase in the raising and keeping of fowl, rabbits, domestic animals, including horses, cows and pigs. This is allowed provided they are **properly housed and fenced** so as not to become a public nuisance. The restrictions are as follows:

*"The keeping or housing of fowl and/or rabbits and/or other small animals commonly raised for human consumption in numbers no greater than is required to satisfy the personal needs of the owners of the premises. The small animals and/or fowl shall be **properly contained**. Holding areas shall be a minimum of 25' from all property lines."*

Please remember that if you are doing any construction, contact Joe Selzer, Zoning Administrator, to see if a permit is needed.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

To the Township residents:

With the winter weather on it's way we turn from the fall leaves to snow. With this our thoughts turn to road conditions. Safety is one of the primary reasons government was created by our founding fathers. We as a township board have a responsibility to maintain our infrastructure and keep it safe. Unfortunately this takes money. The Township receives about 3-cents from every dollar of taxes it collects. As you can figure out this is not a great deal of money. We are only one of a handful of townships in the county that do not have a road millage. For the past 3 years we have spent an average of \$233,000 on road repairs and brining. This money comes out of our general fund. The entire Newaygo County Road Commission (NCRC) has done a tremendous job in giving us the biggest bang for our buck. Other than major trunk lines the township tries to maintain all other roads. This is very expensive and eventually monies available from the general fund for road repairs will be unavailable. Last year the township board formed a road committee. They work along with the NCRC in determining what roads need the most attention. This partnership has been very helpful. The township board along with the road committee have been discussing the possibility of a road millage. To continue to maintain our existing roads this will have to become a reality. There is just not enough money in our general fund to continue funding road repairs. For example: If the township requested a 1-mill road millage it would increase your taxes \$1 per \$1,000 per taxable value. So if your property has a 50,000 taxable value = \$50.00 tax increase. The township has not decided exactly what would be asked for as we are just in the discussion stage. During the next year we will be asking for input from all residents regarding a road millage. We want to make sure that everyone is informed and heard. The last thing the township wants to do is increase anyone's taxes but at the rate in which the roads deteriorate faster than we can fix them we may have no choice. In a world that wants us to be politically correct there is no other way to say "if we don't pay for it, we can't have it."

Please come to the township board meetings and express your opinions. Read upcoming newsletters for more information. Get involved with us to help us become as effective as we can be for you.

Thank you for the honor and duty to be the Brooks Township Supervisor.

Best Regards,

Cory J. Nelson

FROM THE ASSESSOR

At the end of February 2017 you will be receiving an assessment notice from Brooks Township. This notice will have the assessed value and the taxable value from 2016 and the proposed values for 2017. It will also include an approximate amount that your taxes may increase. All property owners are allowed to protest the proposed values at the Brooks Township Board of Review. The dates and times will be included in the notice. Property owners may protest the values either in person or by mail. If you have any questions about the information included in the assessment notice you may call Brooks Township at 231-652-6763.