

WATSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

WATSON TOWNSHIP PLANNING NEWS 2009-2010

This year was an overall quiet yet, very productive year for the Planning Commission. It also brought along some personnel changes. We said goodbye to a long time member Jim Bass, who is hopefully enjoying good health and a little quieter retirement, thank you Jim for a great tenure. Bruce Bos took Jim's place, while the commissions two other newer members, Troy Baker and Michelle Harris continued to learn, gain experience and offer productive ideas and direction this past year.

We completed the final phase of discussing and updating the master plan; to improve the factual basis for land use decisions and to help to increase the Planning Commission's confidence when it is faced with major land use and zoning decisions for the future. Besides the state mandated law that each townships plan is to be reviewed/updated every 10 years, this phase closely corresponded with the Zoning Ordinance changes we made in 2007/2008, to maintain the rural character of our township and yet provide a structured growth plan for our current and future residents, businesses, and industries.

The Plan Review/Update included the following:

Update and Expansion of "Community Profile": An updated "Community Profile" including a demographic and economic profile based on the most recent data available.

Maps and districts that were updated: **Soils, Prime Farmland, Topography, Drainage and watersheds, Roads, Wetlands, Parcels and recent parcel splits, Land use and cover.**

This community profile is intended to serve as the supporting basis for conclusions drawn and the rationale for many of the master plan's policies and guide the directions of current development patterns, trends and population and land use projections.

Citizen Input: We held some open meeting discussions for the public and the Township Board, to gather their opinions and ideas. We also used these meetings as "spring boards: for ideas and direction that the commission had been working on.

Vision and Goals: The Master Plan update was built upon a realistic understanding of what the Township is today, what the issues and trends are and a consensus of ideas as to what and where the residents of the township want their community to be in 20 or 30 years.

Future Land Use Plan: The future land use plan itself is comprised of at least two parts. A map and a narrative that describes what the map is trying to convey the rational, reasonable, and legal attempts to address the issues and goals set forth. To make the updated plan more meaningful and defensible, each land use category was re-valuated and a rationale for its use in one or more areas of the township was explained and justified. The relationship of each land use category to zoning and utilities (or the lack there of) was reviewed and explains the timing of intended land use changes or the circumstances that might lead to the implementation of a planned land use or zoning change.

Implementation: The master plan is implemented over time. It is also implemented by a variety of entities and individuals including the Township Board, the Planning Commission, private individuals and county and state agencies. The implementation plan identified each of tools needed, tasks that must be accomplished, and the entity or persons that will be responsible. The implementation plan also set priorities.



April, 2009



*Watson Township
Incorporated on February 16th, 1842*

Watson Township Board

Office Hours - Mondays 6-8pm

And by appointment.

Phone - (269) 672-7254

Fax - (269) 672-5488

E-mail: watsontownship@btc-bci.com

Website: www.watsontownship.org

Central Mailing Address:

Watson Township, 1895 118th Ave.
Allegan, MI 49010

Supervisor - Candy Adrianson

Clerk - Kelli Morris

Treasurer - Stephanie Bogdan

Trustee - Rod Zeinstra

Trustee - Chuck Andrysiak

Watson Township residents are served by both the Hopkins and Martin libraries. Watson Township now has members on both library boards. If you have any questions in regards to library services or would like to volunteer at either library please call the township hall. Thank You.

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR:

Kevin Kutscher is our township assessor. His township hours are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Wednesday of every month from 9a.m. until 12 noon. Kevin is also responsible for land divisions. If you are planning a lot split, State law PA 159 Land Division Act requires that all splits under 40 acres be approved by the Township, and land division records be maintained by the Township. Please call Kevin for applications at the township hall 672-7254 or at his home office 673-9616.

**Watson Township
Planning Commission**

- Chairperson** - David Carter
- Secretary** - Barb Wroblewski
- Vice Chair** - Beverly McKinnon
- TWP Rep** - Rod Zeinstra
- Member** - Bruce Bos
- Member** - Michelle Harris
- Member** - Troy Baker



Wayland area E.M.S.: serves all of Watson Township. For those who would be interested, they offer a membership program called **Vital Care** for the residents of our township. The fee is \$37 dollars a year (or \$111 for 3 yrs. and get the

4th year free). This program allows your ambulance bill to be only what your Medicare or insurance provider will pay with no extra cost to you. We have applications for the membership program at the Township Hall or you can call and we will mail an application to you. For more information contact **Wayland Area EMS** at 792-2958 or call our office at 672-7254.

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING DATES**

- May 26th, 2010
- July 28th, 2010
- September 22, 2010
- December 1st, 2010
- January 26th, 2011
- February 23rd, 2011



Zoning Board of Appeals

- Chairperson** - Jim Lautenschleger
- Secretary** - David Carter
- Vice Chair** - James Kelsey
- P.C. Member** - Chuck Andrysiak
- Member** - John VanDyke

PROFESSIONAL CODE SERVICES

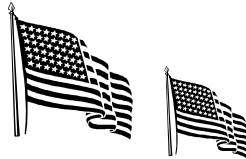
is now handling building, zoning, and ordinance enforcement for Watson Township. PCI is located at:
1575 142nd Ave., Dorr, MI 49323
phone (616) 877-2000
wats 1-800-877-3335
 Kirk Scharphorn Jr. is the Director of Inspections.

Tax Information

Summer taxes are due by September 14th, 2010 and winter taxes are due by February 14th, 2011. **We do not accept postmarks. Your tax payments must be at the township office by the due date.** You may drop them off in the drop box located in the hall entryway, and the office will be open on Mondays from 6-8 pm every week and 9 am to 5 pm on Tuesday, September 14th 2010, Monday, December 27th 2010, and Tuesday, February 14th 2011. If you have any questions you may call the township office at 672-7254.

**Watson Township Board
Meeting Dates**

- April 1st, 2010
- May 6th, 2010
- June 2nd, 2010
- July 1st, 2010
- August 5th, 2010
- September 2nd, 2010
- October 7th, 2010
- November 4th, 2010
- December 2nd, 2010
- January 6th, 2011
- February 3rd, 2011
- March 3rd, 2011
- April 7th, 2011



Notices & Publishing:

All notices are published in the Wayland Pemassee Globe. If you are not receiving it **free** on your mailbox please call the Pemassee Globe 269-792-2271.



The Hopkins Area Fire Department began providing medical first response MFR on 1 Sept. Our MFR's can arrive minutes ahead of an ambulance and provide the ambulance staff with information on a patient's medical status. Another thing we provide is a calming influence to our patients. We live in the area and chances are we may know our patient. In the months we have provided this service we have responded to many calls in Watson Township. We are training more of our personnel to be MFR's and continue training to maintain our licenses.

We provide traditional fire response, vehicle extrication and rescue, ice/cold water rescue, and now medical first response. In addition we have a fire prevention program we work in the Hopkins Elementary School, St Stanislaus School, and we are trying to bring to a local home school association. If you have a group that we could make a presentation to please let us know.

Remember to call the burn permit line before burning. Call on the day you want to burn and the automated service will record your information. This information will be accessed if a fire is reported in the area. A simple call may prevent a full fire response, and associated costs, to your address.

Thank you again for your support. If you have any questions please contact the township office or the Hopkins fire station at 269-793-1000.

Hopkins Firefighters who live in Watson Township are; Tim McKinnon, Chief, Tom Iciek, Assist. Chief, Jim Green, Lieutenant, and firefighters; Trevor Beilby, Eric Boeske, Shawn Bonnell, Kyle Fuss, Brett Harris, Alex Schut, and Gary Truax.



Burn Permits:

If you are burning brush or anything at your residence you must call **686-5222** between the hours of 6a.m. and 6p. m., this is an automated phone system. Please call the day you want to burn for the permit, they keep it on file at dispatch for the day.

Dust Control

Bruce Alan Enterprises will be doing the dust control for Watson Township. The cost will be \$37,665.00. There will be three applications to be done in the 1st week of June, the 2nd week of July, and the 2nd week of August.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Located at the township Hall

Saturday, May 1st, 2010 9A.M. - 2P.M.

ADOPT A ROAD

Clean up your roadside and your trash is **free** at the clean-up. Call the Clerk to sign up.

The cost will vary from \$5 to \$25 a truck load.

Kalamazoo Metal Recycling is bringing a 40 yard container for any metal that a magnet will pick up. Included are appliances, stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators must have the Freon out, water heaters, car parts, snowmobiles, etc.

No bricks, blocks, brush,

Exceptions are no propane tanks, gas tanks, or paint cans, potential explosions in machinery, they are not allowed.

Junk car & Appliance Disposal

Hiscocks Welding 673-6655

Junk cars must have a title and they will pick it up free of charge, for appliances there will be a \$12 charge.(\$45 for refrigerated appls.)

Kalamazoo Metal Recycling 381-1315

Will pay \$170 a ton for scrap and \$180 a ton for junk cars, that you bring in.

Dorr Auto Salvage 681-2268/ 1-800-642-4293

Newer cars only that you bring in \$ amount depends on the car.

We buy scrap metal, farm machinery, cars, trucks, & junk. **269-673-4205/269-650-4210**

Used motor oil: Places to dispose

Little Pines - Otsego 692-3233

hours open 8am-6pm M-F, contact Jim

Wieland's - Plainwell 685-9125

hours open 8am-5pm M-F

Auto Zone - Allegan 686-7877

hours open 8am-9pm M-S, 10am-7pm Sun.

BJ's Auto - Allegan 673-2333

Watson Township
 1895 118th Ave.
 Allegan, MI 49010

GENERAL INFORMATION

Recycling

The recycling container at the township hall is open 24hrs. a day, 7days a week for your convenience.



Cemetery/Plantings

Any questions regarding Watson Township cemeteries and questions about plantings etc. please contact Watson township Cemetery Sexton Dave Kok at 793-4032.

Reminder for All Watson Township Voters

The state has written and implemented a new law since the last election year. By law voters must now show photo identification (e.g. driver's license, college or high school id) in order to be allowed to receive a ballot and vote. Please remember when you come to vote, you need bring a photo id in order to receive a ballot. If you have any questions regarding this new law, please contact us at (269) 672-7254.

School Election- Tuesday May 4th, 2010
Primary Election- Tuesday August 3rd, 2010
General Election- Tuesday November 2nd, 2010

Thank You,
 Kelli Morris – Watson Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

Hall rental is \$60 for township residents and \$120 for non-residents. Hall rental is free for non-profit groups-clubs-organizations-funeral luncheons. If you would like to rent the Township Hall for an event please call the Township office 672-7254.

You may also visit our website
watsontownship.org

to check out date availability on the Hall Rental Calendar. Smoking at the Township Hall is prohibited and **NO ALCOHOL** is allowed on the premises.