

WATSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2015

Incorporated on February 16, 1842

1895—118TH AVENUE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010

HOPKINS AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT

This Hopkins Area Fire Department is governed by an inter-governmental agreement between Hopkins Township and Village, and Monterey and Watson Townships. The fire department responds to fire and rescue incidents as well as providing medical first response for medical emergencies.



Upcoming events the fire department will be participating in:

- Scotty's firehouse children's safety training workshops.
- June 15th Father's Day pancake breakfast.
- July 4th activities in Hopkins with antique fire truck rides.
- October 31st Halloween traffic control for trick-or-treaters.

The third annual Hopkins Firefighters Community Service Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a Hopkins High graduating senior.

In 2014 the fire department responded to 128 fire/rescue incidents and 248 medical incidents, for a total of 382 responses. Of those responses 18 fire/rescue and 65 medical responses took place in Watson Township.

Our firefighters attend in-house training 2 times per month and other training as available. Medical licenses are renewed every three years and require 15-70 hours of refresher training.

Keep fresh batteries in your smoke detectors, plan and practice your in home fire escape, and check and clean your chimneys.

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PROFESSIONAL CODE INSPECTIONS (PCI)

PROFESSIONAL CODE SERVICES handles all building/zoning permits, and ordinance enforcement for Watson Township. A licensed contractor or home owner may obtain Permit applications by contacting PCI, located at 1575 142nd Ave., Dorr, MI 49323. Phone (616) 877-2000, 800-877-3335. Kirk Scharphorn Jr. is the Director of Inspections.

Newly adopted ordinances:

- Wind Energy And Solar Energy Systems – Adopted 11/5/2014, Effective 1/1/2015
- Ordinance To Regulated The Installation And Use Of Outdoor Furnaces – Adopted 3/5/2015, effective 9/1/2015

The following information is state law and hopefully will help when decisions are made to supplement, replace, or add an auxiliary heat source and water heater.

- Wind Energy And Solar Energy Systems – Adopted 11/5/2014, Effective 1/1/2015
- Ordinance To Regulated The Installation And Use Of Outdoor Furnaces – Adopted 3/5/2015, effective 9/1/2015
- Homemade appliances are not legal in the state of Michigan.
- Appliances shall be installed as per manufacturer's specifications and listings.
- Solid fuel and gas appliances may not use the same chimney flue; they are required to be vented separately.
- A mechanical permit is required for the installation of fireplace units, wood burners of any kind, **continued on bottom of Page 2**

HOURS

Township Hall

Monday: 6 to 8 pm (except the Government Holidays of May 25, September 7 and October 1.

Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 11 am, or by Appointment

Drop Box at West Entrance

Phone - (269) 672-7254

Fax - (269) 672-5488

E-mail: watsontownship@watsontownship.org

Website: www.watsontownship.org

Township Assessor

Kevin Kutscher

Phone - (269) 672-7254

Phone - (269) 673-9616

Assessor's Hours: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Wednesday of Every Month

9:00am - 12:00pm

WATSON TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS

By law, voters must now show photo identification (e.g. driver's license, college or high school id) in order to receive a ballot and vote. Please remember when you come to vote, you need to bring a photo id in order to receive a ballot. *Anyone wishing to run for an elected position should contact our office for information and filing forms.*

Elections Dates for 2015 are:

- May 5, 2015

If you have any questions about any of the upcoming elections or would like to obtain an absentee ballot please call the township clerk at (269) 672-7254 (office) or (269) 217-9899 (cell). You may also email the clerk at watsontownship@gmail.com (hall) or kellimorris11@gmail.com (home).



TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor
Pam Brown
(616) 490-1627
psbrown2295@gmail.com

Clerk
Kelli Morris
(269) 217-9899-cell
jkas1993@gmail.com

Treasurer
Sue Jones
(269) 355-2752

Trustee
Rod Zeinstra
(269) 672-7254
zeinstrar@gmail.com

Trustee
Chuck Andrysiak
(269) 672-9497
cjandry@att.net

TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairperson
David Carter
(269) 672-9456
dncarter5@gmail.com

Secretary
Michelle Harris
(269) 217-5971
mcmroost@gmail.com

Vice Chair
Bruce Bos
(269) 672-7254
bbos@twin-pines.net

TWP Representative
Chuck Andrysiak
(269) 672-9497
cjandry@att.net

Member
Beverly McKinnon
(269) 793-7145
zbevz@att.net

Member
Barb Wroblieski
(269) 793-7425
bluevelvet@BTC-BCI.com

Member
Troy Baker
(269) 672-5515

SPRING CLEAN - UP

Saturday, May 16, 2015 9A.M. - 2P.M.

- The cost will vary from \$5 to \$25 a truck load.
- **ADOPT A ROAD:** Clean up a roadside and no cost will be assessed. You must call the clerk to sign up.

A 40 yard container will be on site for any metal that a magnet will pick up. Included are appliances, stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers (Freon removed), water heaters, car parts, snowmobiles, etc. **No bricks, blocks, brush, propane tanks, gas tanks, or oil based paint cans.**

BURN PERMITS

If you are burning brush or anything at your residence you must call 686-5222 between the hours of 6a.m. and 6pm. (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.

RECYCLING

The recycling container at the township hall is currently open 24 hours a day, 7 days week for you convenience. **This service is in jeopardy of being removed as trash and other non-recyclable materials continue to be dumped at the recycling center.** If this area can not be kept clean, the township will have no choice but to remove the container. If the recycling containers are full, please do not leave recyclables outside of the container, as they will blow into neighboring properties.

DUST CONTROL

Michigan Chloride Sales, LLC will be doing the dust control for Watson Township for the 2015 season, at a cost of \$13,125.75 per application. This product is a natural brine process suggesting a need for only two applications. The first application to be done the first week in June the second the end of July and a third if needed.

WAYLAND AREA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Wayland Area EMS (Ambulance Service) serves all of Watson Township. A membership program called Vital Care is available for the residents of Watson Township. The fee is \$37 dollars a year/or \$111 for 3 yrs. with 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. Applications for the membership program can be picked up at the Township Hall, or call and one will be mailed to you. For more information contact Wayland Area EMS at (269) 792-2958 or call the Township office at (269) 672-7254.

ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Allegan County issues, please contact District #6 County Commissioner Jon Campbell, 1639 Elm Street, Otsego, MI 49078-9314. Phone: (269) 694-4632 E-mail: jcampbell@allegancounty.org

PROFESSIONAL CODE INSPECTIONS *Continued*

Continued from page 1...

water heaters and furnace replacements. Outdoor wood burners shall be placed on the lot in compliance with applicable zoning laws for location and smoke.

For additional information on the installations of appliances, contact Professional Code Inspections (PCI), ask for Kirk Scharphorn, Jr. Director of Inspections. 800-628-3335 or (616) 877-2000.



**TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD
OF APPEALS**

Chairperson

Jim Lautenschleger
(269) 501-1486
jimlauten@gmail.com

**Secretary,
PC Representative**

David Carter
(269) 672-9456

Vice Chair

James Kelsey
(269) 793-7763

Twp Representative

Rod Zeinstra
(269) 672-7254
zeinstrar@gmail.com

Member

John VanDyke
(269) 793-3526

**CEMETERY/PLANTINGS
SEXTON**

Pam Brown
Phone - (616) 490-1627

Any questions regarding Watson Township cemeteries, including plantings, etc., should be directed to the Watson Township Cemetery Sexton.

Watson Township has two cemeteries the Hicks Cemetery located on the corner of 14th St. and 117th Ave and the Miner Cemetery located on 20th Street. Please find rules on plantings of flowers, placing of pots and decorations posted at both cemeteries.

Questions regarding the purchase of cemetery lots, contact either the sexton or the Township Office at 269-672-7254.

MEETING DATES

Watson Township Board @ 7 pm

- April 2, 2015 (Annual Budget Meeting)
- May 7
- June 4
- July 9
- August 6
- September 3 (Annual renewal of Special Assessment Fire/EMS)
- October 1
- November 5
- December 3
- January 7, 2016
- February 4
- March 3
- April 7 (Annual Budget Meeting)

Planning Commission @ 7 pm

- March 25, 2015
- April 22
- June 24
- July 22
- September 23
- October 21
- December 2
- February 3, 2016

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Organizational meeting is the 1st Tuesday in March. All other meetings as noticed.
- Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 @ 7 pm

Board of Review

- Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 @ 6 pm
- Tax Protest Heard: Monday, March 14, 2016 from 9 am to Noon; 2 pm to 5 pm and Tuesday, March 15, 2016 from 1 pm to 4 pm; 6 pm to 9 pm

Assessor Hours

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of the month 9 am to 12 pm
- Contact Township Office at 269-672-7254 or Home Office at 269-673-9616

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

For questions on the county roads in Watson Township, email Larry Brown, rclarry@alleganroads.org or call the office at (269) 673-2184.

NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS

All legal notices are published in the Allegan County News, all other non-legal notices in the Penasee Globe.

HOPKINS AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT CONT.

If interested in becoming a firefighter/medical first responder and serving your community contact the township office for more details and an application

Watson Township
1895—118th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-672-7254

PROPERTY TAXES

Summer taxes are due by **September 14th** and winter taxes are due by **February 14th**. **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. The Office is open weekly on Mondays from 6-8 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11 am and Wednesday from 9-Noon.

Additional days for tax payments are:

September 12, December 28, 2015, February 13, and February 29, 2016 from 9 am to 5 pm. The last day is February 15th to pay without penalties and February 29th is the last day we can accept payment at the Township Office. After the 28th, payments must go to the Allegan County Treasures Office at the Allegan County Court House. If you have questions you may call the township office at (269) 672-7254.

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, and funeral luncheons. If you would like to rent the Township Hall for an event, call the Township office (269) 672-7254, or email at watsontownship@watsontownship.org.

Smoking at the Township Hall is prohibited and NO ALCOHOL.

RECYCLE/DISPOSE USED MOTOR OIL

Little Pines—Otsego

Open: 8 am—6 pm, Monday thru Friday
Contact: Jim
(269) 692-3233

Auto Zone—Allegan

Open: 8 am—9 pm Monday thru
Saturday and 10 am—7 pm Sunday
(269) 686-7877

Wieland's—Plainwell

Open: 8 am—5 pm, Monday thru Friday
(269) 685-9125

LIBRARIES

Watson Township residents are served by both the Hopkins and Martin libraries. If you have any questions regarding library services or would like to volunteer at either library please contact the Hopkins Library at 269-793-7516 or visit www.hopkins.ilcoop.org. For the Martin JC Wheeler Library call 269-672-7875 or visit www.whellerpl.michlibrary.org