

Sherman Twp News

News From the Board

January 29, 2016

EMS Tustin facility up and running!

The days of calling for an ambulance and waiting for one to arrive from Reed City or Marion are behind for residents of Burdell, LeRoy, Rose Lake and Sherman Townships! Budgets and scheduling still indicate that we don't have 24/7 coverage 100% of the time, but what we have now is so much more than ever before. The garage and housing quarters are very nice and built to code. We can be proud of all the officials who wouldn't take a first or second "no" for an answer, but kept pushing, kept asking, until something was finally done. The North West quadrant now has equal Emergency Medical Services!

Center Lake Milfoil Issue

Over three years ago Center Lake Resident and Center Lake Preservation Association President H. John Iler brought to the attention of the Twp Board that plants found in the lake were suspected to be Eurasian Milfoil an invasive species. DNA testing done on a plant sample came back positive for the non-native form of Milfoil. In August/September of 2013 a weeding party was organized, but Milfoil is such a tenacious plant that, while a significant dent was made, it has

continued to grow and spread.

In the fall of 2015 Kettunen Center, Center Lake Bible Camp (CLBC), Lake Residents and the Twp banded together to have a study and treatment plan developed by Restorative Lake Sciences. A link to the study can be found on the Twp web site near the bottom of the first page. http://www.osceola-county.org/residents/townships/sherman_township/index.php

An ad hoc committee was formed to work out an agreement between Kettunen Center, CLBC, residents, and the Twp to pay for the clean-up an estimated \$6,875.00 over 2 years. Trustee Don Akers was the Board's representative. Sherman Twp will carry their share of approximately \$1,150.00 and act as fiduciary. The agreement will be voted on at the February monthly meeting of the Board (2/9/16).

Other changes to the Center Lake Twp Park affecting parking and use rules are being considered and are aimed at keeping the beach family friendly.

Status of Zoning Section 7.9e

The section of our Zoning Ordinance regulating Wind Turbines commonly called 7.9e has been rewritten. The Planning Commission (PC) put in many long hours of deliberations holding several Public Hearings and finally in early Fall 2015 completed their work.

A request had been made by land owners and residents to include a Property Value Protection clause. The clause came under legal question. It has been included in other ordinances around the State of MI, but our legal advice was that it was not legally defensible. The Board has tried to show sensitivity to the requests of the citizens regarding what they want included in this

Sherman Township Officers:

Supervisor. David Eggle 231-775-7416
shermantwp.osceola.supervisor@gmail.com

Treasurer. Sharon Black 231-829-3826

Clerk. Bethany Bolduc 231-829-3707

Trustee. Don Akers 231-775-4320

Trustee. Pete Nemish 231-920-8424

Zoning Admin. Joe Grugal 231-829-5236

The Twp website is a subpage of the Co page:

http://www.osceola-county.org/residents/townships/sherman_township/index.php

ordinance, but it is the statutory duty of the Board to uphold the laws of the State and the Board can not overstep the authorities which the State has granted to Townships.

In an effort to find a balance point, the Board took legal council, then voted on the matter, and determined, in a split decision, to send a request through our State Senator Darwin Booher's office to the State Attorney General (AG) for an opinion. We are currently in a holding pattern, including the Twp being under a moratorium on wind development, until we find out if the AG will issue an opinion, and if so, what that opinion will be.

An update is provided at each monthly Board meeting and once something is determined information will be placed on the Twp website.

Board of Review

The Sherman Twp Board of Review will meet to hear petitions on Monday, March 14, 2016, from 9 AM to 3 PM and again on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, from 3 to 9 PM. If you have a petition to bring to the BOR, you may come in person, send a personal representative, mail a letter to the Sherman Twp Supervisor, or call and talk with the BOR on speaker phone. Letters of petition must be received BEFORE the last day the BOR is in session (3/16). Please call the Supervisor ahead of time to schedule the conference call 231-829-7416.

Presidential Primary Election

The State of MI has set aside Tuesday, March 8, 2016, for the Presidential Primary. When you come to vote or request an Absentee Ballot you will be asked if you want a Republican or a Democrat ballot. This is the primary where the Democrat party and the Republican party pick their respective party nominee for President in the November Election. It's like having two elections on the same day in the same place and you have to pick which election to vote in.

Citizens who are not registered to vote or who have moved recently have until February 8,

2016, to register to vote in the March 8 Presidential Primary. Registration can be done by mail-in form, at any Secretary of State branch office, or with the Twp Clerk.

Absentee Voting

If you are registered to vote in Sherman Twp and find that you need an application for an Absentee Ballot for the March 8 Presidential Primary, please contact the Clerk osceolaco.shermantwp.clerk@gmail.com 231-829-3707, or 14625 20 Mile Rd., Tustin. Applications will be mailed through March 5, 2016. After that, requests can be picked up in person at the Clerk's home office, please call for arrangements.

Per State regulation, an election official will hold office hours on the Saturday prior to the election (3/5) at the Twp Hall 14929 21 Mile Rd., Tustin from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Permanent Absentee Voter List

Sherman Twp Election officials have decided to set up a Permanent Absentee Voter (AV) list. There are several voters who always want an AV ballot and creating a permanent list can more efficiently serve these voters. As with everything related to elections, there are State rules governing how we set up and handle this list.

A Permanent AV List is a list of people who have requested in writing, due to a recurring qualifying reason (such as but not limited to age or disability), to get without further request an application for a ballot for every election for which they are eligible to vote, now and for all future elections, until they request to be removed from the list or are no longer registered to vote in Sherman Twp.

Being on the Permanent AV List does not lock people into any course of action. When the application arrives, the voter has the choice to sign and return it or ignore it. If they ignore it, they can still show up in the polls on election day and vote if they wish to. Or if they change their mind and it gets thrown away, they can later

request a second application (provided there is still time to mail it back and forth or it can be picked up in person). It simply means that people on the Permanent AV List will receive an application for a ballot every time.

If you would like to sign-up to be on this Permanent AV List or would like more information, please contact Bethany Bolduc, Sherman Twp Clerk at 231-829-3707, osceolaco.shermantwp.clerk@gmail.com or by mail at 14625 20 Mile Rd., Tustin, MI 49688.

Township Roads and Millage Renewal

Roads – we all use them, and I don't know anyone who likes higher taxes, but it seems that the two items just constantly fight for a happy balance.

Sherman Twp is finishing millage with tax year 2015 which was voted in 2012 at 2 mills for four years specifically to help fund work on the Twp roads. Once tax disbursements from County are received in March this millage will have raised the Twp approximately \$256,000. A lot of projects have been completed since the millage started: We purchased 10,000 yards of gravel with Twp funds and applied it in 2013! We re-paved 130th from Grove Hill (TV 9&10 tower) South through Dighton and then West on 19 Mile to 140th Ave, a stretch of 18 Mile Rd., and 150th Ave between 22 Mile and Jeffery Hill. There are several sections of chip seal planned for the remaining millage with work to be completed during the 2016 summer work season.

This millage is nearing its end, but there are still many maintenance needs on our roads. The Twp Road Committee recommended to the Board and the Board voted to place on the August ballot a millage renewal which would once again ask for up to 2 mills for four years (2016 through 2019). Because the County only pays for half or less of most projects the Twp has to find a method to fund the remaining portion. If we want roads which are decent for ourselves and visitors to drive on, then we have to choose to make it happen.

The Twp Road Committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 7 PM. The public is welcome to come hear the discussion and speak during public comment time.

Notes from the Treasurer

Tax collection dominates the Treasurer's work in February. There are 831 Winter Statements for Real and Personal property taxes in Sherman Twp. The Winter tax bills are due by **February 16, 2016**, without penalty. Between February 17 and 29, 2016, there is a 1% penalty, but taxes can still be paid with the Twp Treasurer. February 29, 2016, is the last day taxes can be paid with the local Treasurer before taxes are returned delinquent to the Osceola County Treasurer.

The Treasurer will have office hours at at her home office 16724 21 Mile Rd., Tustin on February 29, 2016, from 9 AM to 5 PM.

You can still pay your Summer 2015 tax bills plus penalties by February 29, 2016, before they are also returned delinquent to the county.

Please call if you have any questions 231-829-3826 Thank you, Sharon Black

Cemetery Records Update

Cemetery records are being updated. Please check your cemetery lot deed for current ownership and address. The Twp prefers that ownership be in the name of a living relative to eliminate assumptions when making future burials on remaining lots. The deed represents burial rights to the lot(s) and is a transferable item from husband to wife, from parent to child, etc. Contact the Twp Clerk with any updates.

May School Election

Voters in Marion and Pine River school districts will have a May 3, 2016, election. This election will not be consolidated, so Sherman Twp voters will vote at their normal voting location, Sherman Twp Hall.

Monthly meetings: (all meetings are at the
Twp hall beginning at **7 PM**)
Road Committee. 1st Monday
Planning Commission. 1st Tuesday
Board. 2nd Tuesday

Special changes:

**Due to the election the March monthly
Board meeting and Annual meeting will
be on the 3rd Tuesday (3/15/16)**

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 16 *Last day to pay tax without penalty*

Feb. 29 *Treasurer office hours 1% penalty*

Mar. 1 *PC meeting*

Mar. 5 *Saturday AV office hours at hall*

Mar. 7 *Road Comm. meeting*

Mar. 8 *Presidential primary election*

Mar. 15 *Board and Annual meeting*

May 3 *School election vote at Twp hall*

Sherman Twp Clerk
14625 20 Mile Rd.
Tustin, MI 49688