

Please Visit Our Website if you have Internet: www.menomineetownship.com

Township Resident and /or Property Owner/s: **Please Read:**

Hello and Greetings from the Menominee Township Board and its employees.

At the Township Annual Meeting held every March, our Township Supervisor publishes a "[State of the Township Letter](#) ." It covers the township activities and township's improvements from April 2009 to March 2010. A copy has been posted to our website. If you do not have computer access, please contact a board member and we can get you a copy.

For those who live in Menominee School District, the first thing you will do is look at your tax bill and say: "[Oh no - My Taxes Went Up! How can this be?](#)" The Menominee School Board of Education had approved moving school debt and operating tax collection from winter to summer. This will increase summer tax bill amounts and decrease winter tax amounts for those with property in Menominee School District. For most, the total yearly taxes will have gone down.

For those with property escrows in the Menominee School District, the Treasurer will do his best in explaining to loan institutions that the total tax amount has not gone up in most cases. These corporations sometimes don't look at extra notes and letters being automated; hence, a larger tax payment in the summer will increase your escrow. Homeowners need to contact their bank or mortgage company to delay action until winter bill is received in most cases.

Those who qualify for deferred summer tax payments should contact the Township Treasurer. [Deferment only extends the deadline for payment from 14Sep10 to 14Feb11.](#) Property owners (mostly seniors 65yrs+) who have requested deferments in the past will receive paperwork with this bill. The Treasurer also accepts partial payments throughout the collection period.

All property owners get a tax bill, even owners with escrows. A tax bill and a cancelled check or a tax bill with a statement from your mortgage company showing that the mortgage company paid the tax should be an adequate receipt for income tax purposes. [Please keep your original tax bill.](#)

State Principle Resident Exemption (PRE) audits have been conducted on our township the past two years. The Michigan Department of Treasury does these paper audits to determine that paper matches the owner's residency on homestead properties. Please respond to their letters to avoid having your PRE rescinded. It does cause a lot of extra paperwork at County and Township levels.

At the last Township Board Meeting on 26May2010, the Township Board decided again not to ask for any township millage the 2010 tax season. The main township operating income source comes from the state revenue share received 6 times per year (federal share and state sales tax).

[Planning Commission Update.](#) The Commission has been established and met a couple times for organization and training. Commission personnel are listed in the State of the Township letter.

In this letter we will cover a little about our joint township operations with Ingallston. We jointly operate a [Fire Department and a Transfer Station](#) (Waste Collection Site). Both Township Boards meet every other month at 7pm (next meetings 23Aug10; 25Oct10; 20Dec10; 21Feb11) at our new fire station building on East side of US-41 just north of Linsmeier Road and discuss matters pertaining to both of these joint operations. The meetings are open to the public. Sandy Miller attends as the Transfer Station Manager and Bill Gruber attends as the Joint Twp Fire Chief; both are employees that help keep these two operations functioning smoothly.

Jointly we have purchased a new chassis for a tanker fire truck this past year. The tank is being built for the truck and should be mounted and projected to be completed by April 2011. The department averages 70 calls a year. Having the department keeps fire insurance premiums lower.

Many of the volunteer firefighters attend the meetings. We have an extremely dedicated team of firefighters that we're very lucky to have. They are not paid employees – they are volunteers! We are always looking for donations to show our gratitude and support this team of volunteers. If you are interested in providing a monetary donation, please make your checks payable to the: [Joint Fire Services Auxiliary](#), and send the check to either township Clerk or the Fire Chief.

Our trash services at the transfer station get challenging at times for the manager. Be sure that what you bring for disposal is placed in the proper bin. So many items are left on the ground for

Sandy to pick up after the site closes. More and more trash has been illegally dumped on side roads in our beautiful township. If you observe someone littering as such, please report it.

Hall Rentals. For continuous improvement, the township board needs feedback from users. Is everything functioning in the kitchen? Are there any inside or outside improvements required to help make are hall better? We do plan to set up a ceiling mounted projection system for the stage screen. The visual aides system will enhance training and meetings as well as other programs. There will be some field work performed on the ball park maintenance project before the outer fence is reinstalled. We are seeking volunteers to join the recreation committee and for projects.

The township still has road maintenance as a priority issue and we do what we can to help support the road commission who is responsible for them. The County plans to work on Co Rd 577 this year between #2 Rd and 9 mile farm. There is also a stretch on #2 road west of Co Rd 577 to be worked on. The quarter mile stretch of road (West 18th Avenue) north of the city cemetery belongs to the city and has been an issue for township users. Please contact the City Manager on that stretch or the County Road Commission if you have questions on the other work areas.

Hall Hours. Most Wednesdays the Deputy Supervisor holds hours from noon until 4pm at the hall. On Mondays and Tuesdays from 2pm to 7pm, the assessor has hall hours. It is best to call ahead and make an appointment so that she can have the necessary documents ready for you.

Treasurer Hall Hours are posted on the website, on the tax bills and on bulletin boards.

Trustees per phone contact will hear public issues/concerns and bring them to board meetings. The trustees regularly attend all county meetings. The **Twp Clerk** is the FOIA and Election coordinator and may be reached at his home or you may contact him by mailing the Township Hall at N2283 O-1 Drive. Absentee ballots are available to those who request them.

As we covered in past newsletters, the township board is working toward a process to lead us forward and the township board's action plan is becoming a strategic plan. Some refer it to a 5 year plan but due to the term of office of township officials the planning cycle would be renewed every 4 years. Moving ahead we've established a value system and reiterated the code of ethics required by law in a township policy letter. Our established value system buzzwords are: "**Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Service and Collaboration**". We've also performed an exercise during April's board meeting with public participation to determine and identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats which in turn have pointed us toward the townships priority issues. Those priority issues are maintaining fire services, supporting the Road Commission to maintain our township roads, maintain an adequate general fund balance and developing our natural resources. This is a work in progress as we develop our strategic plan for the township, the next step is to detail out realistic goals/objectives that are within our control and ability.

Menominee Township Board Strategic Plan 2010-2012 (Work in Progress)

Mission Statement: *"The Mission of the Menominee Township Board is to work together to perform the statutory mandated functions of assessment administration, election administration and tax collection. The board with public voice will also plan and provide other permissive functions to support and protect the needs of the local public. The board is responsible for maintaining the township's fiduciary health."*

Vision Statement: *"To sustain an economic base sufficient to draw and keep families in the area; to provide good infrastructure; to provide tax incentives when available to businesses; and to enhance our natural resources for our residents' enjoyment."*

Standards of Conduct: *"The township board, contracted public officials and employees will conduct themselves in accordance with policy letter MTR-02-2010. The set of values established for the township board to focus on are Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Service and Collaboration in order to function smoothly."*

Priority Issues: *"Maintaining the Fire Department, Maintaining our Roads, Maintain Our General Fund Balance and Develop our Natural Resources"*

Goals and Objectives: *"As the year goes on, the long-term and short-term goals and objectives of the township board will be developed and then published for the upcoming years."*

Have a safe 4th of July celebration. Know the state's fire policy when considering personal fireworks use.