

The following is a list of projects and events that took place in the township for the year 2008.

The roadside park was improved with the addition of swings, grills, and picnic tables - only the kiosk is left to do.

Three beautiful benches were purchased for the cemetery, along with a message board. Dave Retlick and his helper do a great job of keeping the cemetery in beautiful condition.

The township parking lot was seal coated. A new door, along with an eave, was installed at the south entrance to help with ice buildup.

Thanks to Trustee Darlene Nerat and her helpers, Carbondale has a road sign again.

In April, the township petitioned the Michigan Tax Tribunal over the counties Equalization figures. Again, the township prevailed, resulting in "more accurate" numbers and a substantial amount of extra work for our assessor and treasurer.

In May, the board started the process of reviewing board policies. By the end of the year, we had reviewed and updated (if needed) nine different policies, and put them in a binder, ready for use by the new board in November.

Last summer, the board agreed to try a different substance for dust control- which was about 1/2 the cost of chloride. We felt the results were good. This year the board has agreed to do dust control three times on a regular schedule.

For the year 2008, we spent \$532,000 on road capital improvements, which were: blacktop Twin Creek Road, blacktop 1/4 mile of #10 Road, blacktop a large patch on Bay De Noc, and reconstruct Evergreen Road west of Hwy 41. Over \$27,000 was spent on dust control and gravel, bringing a total of almost \$560,000 spent on roads for the year.

The finishing touches were done to the fire station, including some outside landscaping and some new appliances. It really is a facility we can be proud of, not only in appearance, but, for it's usefulness to our volunteer firefighters.

November brought the general election and two new members to the board. Our new clerk is Mike Armbrust and our new treasurer is Dave Wesoloski. These two positions are not easy. Both Dave and Mike have shown they are up to the task and I am confident they will continue to carry the load well, as they learn their many responsibilities. Our thanks to Julie Kass and Pat Barker for their help in this transition.

As I said in my February report, I attended a workshop at the annual meeting entitled "Creating a Vision for Your Township". It drove home the message that we as a board better start seriously thinking and planning for the future. We are the stewards of the future for this township. Change will occur - who do you as residents want to be doing the change - a township board, an industry, a developer, or some nonresident just trying to make a fast dollar?

A vision has to be about the residents. What will they experience because of the job this board has done?

It is written "without vision the people perish". Without vision we are simply reacting - we need to be proactive. Without vision, we as a board, have no standard to base our decisions on.

We, as a township, have several important issues looming ahead of us in the not too distant future. It will be my goal as the supervisor to challenge and encourage this board to think about their own vision - to share it and together formulate a vision for the township as a whole.

In closing, I will share the vision that I wrote at the workshop back in January: 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; to enhance our natural resources for our residents enjoyment.

With all of your help, I feel we can and will do good things for Menominee Township.

Respectfully Submitted

Ken Goffin
Menominee Township Supervisor