

Greetings From your Township

Board: We are enclosing this brief news letter to give you information about your township. This news letter is being delivered by first class mail along with your summer property tax notice. Using the method, we are able to save some money. However some of you may receive duplicate copies since it will be included with each tax parcel.

Berlin-Orange Fire Dept.:

Our Emergency Services efforts for medical and fire remains very active. In 2007 the department responded to 264 calls. Thus far in 2008 they have responded to 149 calls. If this rate continues through the remainder of 2008, a record will be set for calls in one year.

The Fire fighters and the Berlin-Orange Fire Board want to express their thanks for your support for the purchase of a water tanker/pumper last year. The three year 1.5 mills you voted will pay off the remainder of the truck loan in May of 2009. As promised, the 1.5 millage levy will be removed from your taxes in the 09-10 tax year.

Fighting fires and providing medical services is a very demanding and rigorous commitment. Therefore, we are constantly searching for new members of our department. We would appreciate your help in finding individuals would commit to this area of public service. If you have any questions please or names contact any fire fighter or our Chief Matt Bennett, 616-527-4880.

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

At a special meeting of the Orange Township, Wayne Schoonover, County Highway Engineer, Road Commission for Ionia County presented information about two Libbart Creek Bridges that have been designated as bridges that need to replaced. They are located on Grand River Ave. between Kelsey and M-66 and on David Highway between Sunfield and Keefer. All bridges are part of the county road system. However, because of financial conditions involving county and state road repair this project will require a township match. The match amount is approximately \$171,850.

At this time there are no weight restrictions on either bridge. They both will be monitored by the county and weight restrictions put in place if needed. The bridge with the greatest problems is located on Grand River Ave. between Kelsey and M-66. The county requested a match commitment to accompany their application to the Federal Government for bridge funding. The Township Board reviewed their options and felt that without sufficient funds in the current budget or no special revenue sources they could not participate in the first round bridge replacement. They voted to further consider the options and prepare for action in the second round bridge replacement. Please contact any Board Member if you have any opinions on this issue.

Taxable Property Revenue Increase: During the past two years, the assessed value of property in Orange Township increase approximately 33%. This growth is largely due to the new commercial growth in the M-66 Corridor.

<u>Urban center designation</u>

The Area in Orange Township surrounded by M-66, David Highway, Kelsey Road, and Tuttle Road has been designated by the



Federal Government as one of the new urban growth areas in the United States. Medical Center Development:

During the past year contacts were made by Sparrow Health Systems concerning the develop of a Health Care System located south of Ionia. They reviewed several sites and indicated that they would like to locate on a site in Orange Township adjacent to the south side of the Ionia County Airport with entry roads leading to M-66 and David Highway.

This center, when all phases are completed, will include a medical building, ambulatory facility, and a critical care hospital. However, the facilities required municipal water and waste water treatment services plus a zoning designation that would allow a medical center to locate.

At that time, the township had no waste water treatment or water producing capacities or access to them. With that situation. the township entered into negotiations with the City of Ionia which Following provides both. extensive meetings with each township board member, a contract, (public act 425) was developed for consideration by the entire township board. In summary, the contract contained an daily treatment allocation of 100.000 gal of waste water that can be allocated by Orange Township for future development along M-66, a Water franchise to David Highway, 25% of all hook up fees for water and sewer in the medical center. and a fire protection service fee of \$5,000. annually indexed. The contract (PA 425) is a conditional annexation that expires in 40 vears and must be re-approved by the township and the city at that time. The area in the contract is 43 acres. The land and proposed buildings can not be taxed as property since the owner and operator is a non-profit organization. Any tax revenue will come from an income tax that only applies to the referenced 43 acres. Only the city has that authority.

If you any questions or would like a copy of the contract or a map of the site please contact us and we will provide it.

A public hearing was held to provide information about the PA 425. Approximately 85 people were in attendance.

Regular Board Meeting Dates:

Our Board continues to hold its regular meetings the second Tuesday of each month in the Berlin-Orange Fire Station 265 West David Highway at 7:00 PM. Please plan on coming to some of our meetings.

Elections:

As you know, this is a very important election year. Our elections are held in the auditorium of the LeValley UMC at the corner of Kelsey and David Highway.

Polls Open7:00 AM to 8:PM

Primary Election August 5th, 2008

General Election November 4th 2008

Last Day to register for the primary July 7th, Last Day to register General Election October 6th,2008

If you have any questions please contact Vicki Bowerman Clerk 517-647-2220

Election of Township Officiers

This is the year that Township Officers are elected Following are the names of those of those individuals who have submitted partitions indicating their desire to serve in township government

SUPERVISOR: Wayne DePotty CLERK: Vicki Bowerman

TREASURER

Amanda Ferris

Karla Thomas Wittenbach

TRUSTEE

Dan First Tom Green