

Greetings From your "NEW"

Township Board: Now that the recent election is behind us, those of us elected to government positions must get to work to provide needed services to our citizens. In townships across the state, the effective date, when the newly elected officers take office, is 12:00 noon on November 20th, 2008.

In Orange Township, three of these officers are newly elected and two were returned to their previous positions. The purpose of this newsletter is to help you become better acquainted with your new board, summarize some of the ongoing activities, and start the process for establishing the township goals and direction over the next four years.

This news letter is being delivered by first class mail along with your winter property tax notice. Using this 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. Please share your extra copies with those Orange Township residents who otherwise would not receive one.

Following is a statement from each member of the Orange Township Board:

WAYNE DEPOTTY. SUPERVISOR: 616-527-2735/2724 4548 South State Road, Ionia, MI 48846

"Thank you for your support. Please feel free to contact me about anything that you are concerned about in the township and the direction you would like to see it go in the future.

I would like to remind you that the tax notices no longer have a grace period."

VICKI BOWERMAN, CLERK: 517-647-2220

4081 Grand River Trail, Portland, MI 48875

"Hi, - My name is Vicki Bowerman and I had the pleasure of becoming the Orange Township Clerk in July of 2007. I am enthusiastic to serve the citizens of Orange Township and look forward to the next four years. You may contact me at 517-647-2220 or <u>vbowerman@peoplepc.com</u> "

KARLA THOMAS WITTENBACH, TREASURER:

<u>517-647-0184</u>

5269 Sunfield Highway, Ionia, MI. 48846

"Hello, My name is Karla Thomas Wittenbach and I am excited about being elected Orange Township Treasurer. I have lived in Orange Township my entire life, and I believe we have a great township. My husband Kim and I have been married for 12 years and we have three young sons. I work outside of my home two days a week for Grand River Physical Therapy, and stay home with my children the other days.

I have been a very active leader in our Ionia County 4-H Program and at my church.

I would just like to let all of you know that I welcome any questions you may have during my term of office. Please feel free to call me and I will do my best to help you out. I would like your opinion concerning part of the tax collection process. Since I or my deputy intend to be at home during all of the tax collection posted hours do you feel that I should have, in addition a tax drop box, on my home porch?

I'm excited about my new position and am willing to commit the necessary time to do an excellent job for you and gain your confidence.

Communication is the best way for all of us to work together and make our township a great one.

Thanks for all of your support!"

DAN FIRST, TRUSTEE: 616-527-1888

3089 East Peck Lake Road, Ionia, MI. 48846

"As a township official, I support a new town hall. It is our job as board members to provide a place to vote. It is our responsibility to provide for the next generation."

TOM GREEN, TRUSTEE: 517-647-6801

1875 East Grand River Avenue, Portland, MI. 48875

"I am glad to be your new Trustee. I will do the best I can to help the community."

MEDICAL CENTER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

On Friday October 24^{th.} 2008 the land transfer of the parcel located in Orange Township near the intersection of David Highway and M-66 was completed. This will start the process for the engineering and site plan development for all of the phases of the medical center development. This will increase activity in the township since all engineering and site plans must be reviewed by Orange Township Citizens who are appointed to the Orange Township Planning Commission and Orange Township Zoning Board of Appeals. Under this arrangement Orange Township residents will have the opportunity to ask questions, influence the final site plans and approve the project.

At this time, it would appear that engineering for the water and sewer line will commence at their current end point, Tractor Supply, then bore under M-66 and terminate in the 43.8 acre parcel that has been acquired for the medical facility.

Berlin-Orange Emergency Services Millage:

You will notice, on your winter tax statement, a special voted three year tax levy for 1.5 mills. This is used to pay for a new 3,000 gallon pumper tanker. We are pleased to inform you that this is the final year for that tax. The \$193,000. Ioan that was negotiated to purchase the new fire apparatus will be paid in full prior to April of 2009 and therefore will be removed from your 2009 property tax statement.

Berlin-Orange Fire Dept.:

Our Emergency Services efforts for medical and fire is among the departments, in our county, who have the highest number of emergency calls annually

While their efforts are personally rewarding, the job is demanding. We are grateful for their devotion and dedication We are constantly searching for new members in our department. If you know of anyone who likes to serve

<u>SUPERVISOR:</u> Wayne Depotty 527-2735/2724 <u>CLERK:</u> Vicki Bowerman, 517-647-2220 <u>TREASURER:</u> Karla Wittenbach 517-647-0184 <u>TRUSTEE:</u> Dan First, 527-1888 <u>TRUSTEE:</u> Tom Green 517-647-6801



their community in this manner please contact our Fire Chief Matt Bennett (616-527-4880) and he will follow up.

Berlin-Orange Fire Department Facilities

Because of our emergency medical services operation, firefighting equipment improvement, increased training requirements, and other township use of the building, our Fire Chief, fire fighters and Fire Board have recommended an increase of the building square footage utilized for classroom/meeting use and housing of equipment. Plans have been developed for the addition of 1,736 square feet. This recommendation will be considered at future meetings of the Orange and Berlin Township Board.

Ionia City Water Franchise

Recently the Orange Township Board approved a water franchise with the City of Ionia. This will allow, within township jurisdiction, City water in an area 3,000 feet in depth, bordered by David Highway on the south, M-66 on the west and the Orange Township/Ionia Township Boundary. Costs for developing any distribution system from this franchise will be borne by the users. Orange Township will receive revenue from hookups. Additionally fire hydrants could be installed up to David Highway. That would be a benefit for our fire department.

A township ordinance must be approved concerning the use and connections to the new water system.

Berlin township Sewer Line Use Agreement

For the township to benefit from their allocation of a daily 100,000 gallons sewerage treatment in the Ionia Waste Water Treatment Plant an agreement must be negotiated with Berlin Township to utilize their main line and lift stations. A similar agreement has already been negotiated for the proposed medical center.

Ionia Waste Water Treatment Plant Ownership

Orange Township is currently a member, along with Berlin, Easton, Ionia and Ionia City, of the Ionia Sewer Treatment Consortium. Now that the Township has a legal capacity in that plant they have been asked to join a group that will help plan the future of the plant and possibly share in the ownership of the plant when the bonds are retired in 2010.

Bridge Replacement

Orange Township has received information about two Libbart Creek Bridges that have been designated as bridges that need to be 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, we have been informed that this project will require a township match.

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

Further action will be considered by the Township Board early in 2009.

Mobile Phone Tower Placement

The Townships have been contacted concerning placement of a cell phone tower on the property on which the fire department is located. This property is jointly owned by Orange and Berlin Townships. If the final agreement is approved, the revenue will be used to support the fire department

Township Directory:

Following are the names and numbers of those individuals who help make our township work. We thank them all for their efforts FLECTION CHAIR: Linn Plett 527-3669

ELECTION CHAIR.		527-5009
TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR:	Dan Bengel 517	-641-8900
BOARD OF REVIEW:	Kevin Cody Marie Scheurer, Matt Stuart, 51	527-2359
PLANNING COMMISSION	V Dan Reeder Wayne Depotty Vacancy Brian Stuart, Tom Green,	
ZONING BOARD OF APP	EALS: Tom Green, David Fitzpatrick, Kevin Page Dan First, Cindy Green	527-1468 527-1888

ZONING ADMIN: Jeanne Vandersloot, 616-897-4242

Orange Township Meeting Schedule

Following is our schedule of regular Board meetings from December 2008 to December 2009. All meetings will be held at the Berlin-Orange Fire Station 265 W. David Hwy. Any Changes from this schedule will be published in the local newspaper.

Tuesday December 9th 2008, 7:00 pm Tuesday January 13th 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday February 10th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday March10th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday April 14th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday May 12th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday June 9th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday July 14th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday August 11th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday September 8th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday November 10th, 2009, 7:00 pm Tuesday December 8th, 2009, 7:00 pm

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