



FILLMORE TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHED 1849

Spring 2019

FROM THE SUPERVISOR, *KEN DEWEERDT*

Township Office

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Phone: 269.751.7655

Fax: 269.751.6065

fillmoretownship@gmail.com

www.fillmoretownship.com

Boards

Board of Trustees:

Ken DeWeerd, Supervisor
Leah Folkert, Treasurer
Elaine Mokma, Clerk
Chuck Schaap, Trustee
Robert Yonker, Trustee

Planning Commission:

Mike Dozeman, Chair
David Brink, Secretary
Fred VanTubergan
Chuck Schaap
Rod VanGelder

Board of Appeals:

C. Keith Potter, Chair
Marc Tucker, Secretary
Fred VanTubergan

Fire Board:

Robert Yonker
Tim Hofman

Board of Review:

Gary Balder
Peter Yonker
Doug VerHoeven

Assessor:

Jim Bush

Cemetery Sexton:

Howard Lubbers

Greetings from your Township Office. Hopefully the information included will be helpful as we begin another year of service.

As our fiscal year begins April 1, 2019 all of the revenue and budgeting for the coming year is in place. As in previous years the Board is limited to the amount that can be spent to the amount collected by millages that have been approved. The breakdown of dollar amounts for the coming year is as follows;

Operating	\$ 94,294.00
Roads	\$368,123.00
Police	\$ 59,953.00
Fire/1st Response	\$226,203.00
Water/Sewer	\$ 58,202.00

A full report of the budget can be viewed on our Web-Site at www.fillmoretownship.com.

As roads are the largest portion of the budget the Board has determined the following road projects for the coming construction season. All work will be resurfacing of the following;
*50th St. from 136th Ave. to 144th Ave.
*Church St. in Graafschap
*56th St from 136th Ave. to 141st Ave., this is a project of the Allegan Road Commission. This is a total of 6.8 miles. Hopefully bids come in as expected and these projects can be completed. Roadside mowing and dust control will also be done.

The second largest expenditure of the budget is Fire/1st Response. The Township is served by 3 departments, the following are response numbers for 2018 from each department (including assisting other area departments);

*Graafschap	135
*Hamilton	65
*Overisel	42

For a total of 242 calls in 2018.

As our Township letterhead indicates, we were established in 1849. That makes us 170 years old. A lot has changed in those years and yet a lot has remained the same. We are still by in large a rural agricultural community with a population of approximately 2800. The present Township Hall was built in 1994, the old Township Hall is presently still being used by the Outdoor Discovery Center on their property on 56th St. This past year we re-roofed our building and also replaced both entrance doors. This year we are looing at up-grading the lighting. The Township Hall has worked out well and is in good condition. □

Permits for new construction in 2018 totaled \$4,729,331.00. A reminder that any new building or remodeling requires permits from the Township, enabling it to be properly recorded and inspected. This also includes any electrical, mechanical and plumbing improvements. All permits are obtained from the Township office.

In August 2018 the voters of our Township passed the renewal request for police service. With that vote we will extend the contract with the Allegan County Sheriff Department for police service. It has worked well with sharing of costs with Overisel Township, we plan on continuing that agreement. We will be purchasing a new police cruiser in this year, replacing the 2013 cruiser now being used. This new cruiser will be a 2020.

Enjoy the coming seasons!

FROM THE ASSESSOR, JIM BUSH

Fillmore Township has 1542 parcels. For 2019 the SEV of the Township is \$178,034,800 this represents a 6.4% increase from last year. This increase was due to both the rise in property values, as well as the value of new construction that has happened in the township. The Taxable Value for this year increased by 3.9% to \$124,430,927, this was mainly the result of the Consumers Price Index (2.4%) for most properties, the uncapping after the transfer of property, and new construction.

I am in my office at the Township the first Saturday morning of each month and can meet with you by appointment only. Please schedule an appointment by calling 269-751-7655 during Township office hours of Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8a-12noon.

FROM THE CLERK, ELAINE MOKMA**Some frequently asked questions regarding voting:*****Where do I vote?***

The local precinct for Fillmore Township is at the Township Hall located at 4219 52nd St., Holland, MI. All elections are held at this precinct. Polls are open the day of the election from 7am to 8pm.

How do I register to vote?

You may register at the Township Office or at any Secretary of State office. You may also register by mail up to 15 days before an election. Registering in person is the preferred method, there is no fee to register. To vote you must be: a United States citizen and a resident of the State of Michigan, have resided in Fillmore Township for at least 30 days prior to an election, be a registered voter of Fillmore Township and be 18year old on or before election day. In-person registration extended to Election Day with proof of residency.

How do I file an absentee ballot?***No-reason absentee voting.***

To vote as an absentee voter, you must fill out and sign an absentee vote application **for each election**. Call the Township Office to obtain an application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you after the application has been received in the Office and verified by the Clerk. You may request to be added to the permanent AV list, once on this list an application will be sent to you for every election.

A Reminder:

Please remember to bring photo ID, this State law took effect November 2007 requiring each voter to show photo ID. An affidavit can be signed if no ID is presented.

Please feel free to call the Township Office with any questions you may have.

FROM THE TREASURER, Leah Folkert

Summer tax bills will be mailed by July 1, 2019 and may be paid July 1 through September 14. Winter tax bills will be mailed by December 1 and may be paid December 1 through February 14, 2020. It is the taxpayers responsibility to notify the Township if there are any changes to your mailing address. Please note that the Township is not required to send a receipt for real property taxes. Keep the top portion of your tax bill as your receipt. If you would like a signed and dated receipt from the Treasurer, you may send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment, request a receipt and pick it up from the office during regular office hours, or you may make your payment in person at the Township office when I have posted office hours. Payment history and delinquent tax information (if any) for real property tax can be found at www.allegancounty.org and click on "Search Tax Records."

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP DEPUTY, REINALDO RETAMAL

Greetings Fillmore and Overisel Township Boards and Residents,

As many of you already know, I am Deputy Ray Retamal and by now well known as Deputy RayRay by many members of the community. I am originally from the country of Chile in South America where I actually began my career in Law Enforcement. After the proper required years residing in the USA, I was able to become a nationalized US citizen and commenced to prepare myself to once again be part of the Law Enforcement family.

After reaching my goal as a certifiable officer by the State of Michigan and graduating from Kalamazoo Valley Community College Police Academy, I had the opportunity to serve in the City of Wayland and Saugatuck-Douglas Police Departments as road patrol officer for approximately 3½ years combined before being hired by the Sheriff's Office in June, 2002. Through the Sheriff's Office, I have obtained special training as an Evidence Technician and Hostage/Crisis Negotiator, as well as Basic Detective and Special Interview Techniques. As a bilingual officer fluent in the Spanish Language, I have been able to assist in a variety of cases involving Hispanic citizens including some high profile incidents with the investigations extending all the way to Chicago, Illinois.

During my years of service with the Sheriff's Office I have also been assigned to work in Fennville City and Lee Township to serve those communities as a contract deputy. Beginning in May 2013, I was honored be selected to work with the citizens of Fillmore and Overisel Townships.

From the moment I began serving the community and because of my direct dedication to the two townships, I was able to get to know many of the citizens, a large amount of businesses, church leaders and schools. I have been working in direct contact with the township supervisors on different situations including, but not limited to, ordinance violations to neighbor disputes that were lingering for quite some time before beginning my assignment and finally achieving a positive resolution. I have participated in many community events such as the annual two day Treats and Trails during Halloween at the Outdoor Discovery Center, the annual community summer picnic from Fulfilling Life Ministries with Doug Verhoeven, and Graafschap Fire Department/Graafschap Christian Reformed Church 4th of July celebration.

Another important aspect of my daily work has been with the schools assisting in a variety of situations involving traffic concerns, student/parent problems and even helping school buses during their pick up and drop-off routes having issues with drivers putting the students at risk by violating the red lights.

I have been more than thankful to have the support and positive recognition I have received from the Township Boards and the community. I definitely look forward to continue serving you as long as I can and please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions at rretamal@allegancounty.org, or via township office or cell phone for those who have my direct number.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Ray Retamal

The Fillmore Township Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7p.m. at the Fillmore Township Hall. 2019-2020 Budget and 2018-2019 Financial Statement available on our website fillmoretownship.com

Recycling is available for Township residents at the Township Hall. Materials for recycling include: household plastic, glass and tin containers. The smaller recycle container is for collapsed cardboard, newspapers and magazines.

**PLEASE NO
GARBAGE!**

The Fillmore Township Planning Commission will hold their quarterly meetings for 2019 at 7 p.m. on May 13 August 12 and November 18.

All other meetings are by special request.

Fillmore Township Hall
4219 52nd Street
Holland, MI 49423

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP

A clean-up day is planned for Saturday April 27, 2019. Dumpsters will be available at the Township Hall parking lot from 9 am to 3 pm.. An attendant will be onsite with equipment; fees will be determined according to the amount placed in the dumpster. Charges are minimal as the Township promotes this from the General Fund. Tires and appliances will be taken, however there will be an additional charge for those items.

No hazardous material will be accepted.

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

The Township maintains two recycle bins at the Township Hall. We have been notified by our contractor that the market for recyclables has gone away thereby increasing the disposal cost of the material collected. We still plan on continuing this service, however we may have to reconsider this for the future. There are several companies that provide curb side pick-up on a weekly basis.

2020 CENSUS

Every 10 years the U.S. government conducts a census. This is important for determining distribution of Federal funds and also determines districting of federal and state offices.

There are paid positions available at the local level to help complete the census. If you are interested or want more information, contact Mr. Charles Zigler at Charles.b.zigler@2020census.gov.

PARKS

Fillmore Township has 2 parks, Cottonwood Park on 143rd Ave. between 54th and 56th St. offers walking trails, play ground equipment a picnic shelter with tables and a charcoal grill. Discovery Park on 142nd Ave. between 56th St. and Blue Star Hwy ties directly to the Out Door Discovery Center. This Park also offers walking trails, a pond and natural play ground equipment. You are encouraged to use both parks. For anyone interested in biking, there are maps available at the Township Office showing all the area trails and cycling routes.