



# FILLMORE TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHED 1849

Spring 2021

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR, *KEN DEWEERDT*

### Township Office

#### Hours:

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

Phone: 269.751.7655

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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

This year 2021 marks the 172nd anniversary of Fillmore Township. I sometimes wonder if our forefathers and mothers ever envisioned Fillmore Township as it looks today. They were basically a group that lived off of the land and survived by helping each other. Today we are still for the most part an agricultural community with many small businesses and residents scattered throughout, with a population of approximately 2800.

The purpose of this newsletter will be to update you on activity and services in our Township.

Budgets for 2021-2022 have been finalized and as in previous years most of those funds are used for three line items; Roads, Fire/1st Response and Police. A complete break-down of the Financial Statement showing funds and expenditures is available on the Township website.

Road maintenance involves any road designated by the Allegan County Road Commission as local. We are fortunate that there are several primary roads in the Township that are the responsibility of the A.C.R.C., however the majority fall under local roads for maintenance. This year we are going to resurface 140th Ave. from 60th St. to 56th St. and Chip & Fog Seal 138th Ave. from 58th St. to 52nd St, 54th St. from 136th Ave. to 138th Ave., and 52nd St. from 140th to 141st Ave. This will use the \$470,000.00 budgeted.

Fillmore is serviced by 3 Fire Departments; Graafschap, Hamilton and Overisel. All 3 departments experienced an increase in calls this past year. Graafschap responded to 760 calls with 184 in Fillmore Township. Hamilton responded to 462

calls with 63 in Fillmore Township and Overisel responded to 142 calls with 47 in Fillmore Township. With the increased calls for service from all departments to Fillmore Township this will have an increased financial impact on the budgeted funds, for Fire/1st Response.

Overisel Fire Department recognizes the retirement of Chief Ron Horsting. We thank Ron for his service to the community and also Congratulate Josh Kooienga to his appointment as the new Fire Chief.

On the November 2020 Election ballot the Township placed 2 millage proposals. The proposal for Fire/1st Response was passed with a slight increase of .1173 mill. This millage brings \$261,800.00 in revenue compared to \$287,000.00 that we are expected to spend in 2021-2022.

The ballot vote for roads renewal/increase was defeated. This was a disappointment to the Board as road maintenance is a major portion of our budget. Without a road millage there would be no road work done on our local roads. An explanation of future millage will be addressed.

Millages are set for 2021. Currently, the Township collects special voted millages for Operations, Roads, Fire/1st Response, Police and Water/Sewer. Fire/1st Response is in position through 2025. Operations has no expiration. Water/Sewer is in position through 2024. Road and Police millages are set to expire in 2021, to continue services provided by the revenue collected by these millages, the Board will ask for renewals in 2022. More information will be available on these ballot proposals prior to the vote in 2022.

## **FILLMORE TOWNSHIP DEPUTY**

We have a new deputy in Fillmore and Overisel Townships from the Allegan County Sheriff Department. Deputy Joe Knapp comes to us with over 20 years experience with the A.C.S.D. Joe lives in the Burnips area and we are looking forward to his service in our communities.

In 2020 our Township Deputy responded to 707 calls, 443 of which were into Fillmore Township.

### **FROM THE CLERK, ELAINE MOKMA**

There will be a Special Election for Zeeland Public Schools on May 4, 2021 for the following;

**Zeeland Public Schools Bonding Proposal** Shall Zeeland Public Schools, Ottawa and Allegan Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Seventy-Five Million Dollars (\$75,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of: erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and refurbishing school buildings; and acquiring, preparing, equipping, developing, and improving playgrounds, playfields, athletic fields and facilities and sites?

**Zeeland Public Schools Operating Millage Renewal Proposal** This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2021 tax levy.

For more information on regarding the Bond Proposals go to <https://www.zps.org> for more information .

### **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 online, 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 18years old on or before election day. In-person registration extended to Election Day with proof of residency.

Once registered to vote in Michigan, a voter's registration remains in place continually.

#### ***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.

### **FROM THE TREASURER, Leah Folkert**

Summer tax bills will be mailed by July 1, 2021 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, 2022. 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, requesting a receipt or 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](http://www.allegancounty.org) and click on "Search Tax Records."

***FILLMORE TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES***

One of the most frequent complaints received at the Township Office concerns property blight. There is a Township Ordinance that defines and addresses issues that are recognized as blight. This applies to all property whether it be residential or commercial. If you have an inoperable vehicle, boats, recreational vehicle or general debris not in an enclosed structure you are in violation. A letter from the Township notifying you of such violations should be taken seriously as penalties can be issued. Fillmore Township Blight Ordinances can be viewed on the Township Website.

***FILLMORE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION***

Our Planning Commission had an active year. There were a number of Re-Zoning requests along with several Site Plan Reviews. The Planning Commission holds Public Hearings where they take comments to help determine the specific request and appropriate response to the request.

The Planning Commission is also addressing the issue of Short Term Rentals. It has come to the attention that there maybe several properties being used for this activity. Our Zoning Ordinance does not address or recognize this S.T.R. situation, so guidelines are being discussed to regulate Short Term Rentals.

***FILLMORE TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES***

Fillmore Township maintains 2 cemeteries; East Saugatuck Cemetery on Blue Star Hwy and East Holland Cemetery on Ottogan Rd. Howard Lubbers is the Sexton maintaining records, selling lots and staking plots for burials. At the Fillmore Township Board of Trustee February 2021 meeting a review of adjacent township cemeteries lot sales showed Fillmore Township was clearly the least per lot sale. The Board approved increases as follows; Township Residents \$200.00 per lot, non residents \$700.00 per lot, with a maximum of 4 lots per purchase.

The Board would like to recognize Mr. Calvin Boeve for his work at the East Holland Cemetery. He retired last summer after many years of mowing and maintaining the grounds. Thanks Call!

***FILLMORE TOWNSHIP BUILDING***

Building activity was down slightly in 2020. There were 4 new homes. Accessory buildings were the major portion of permits along with residential remodeling. Hidden Creek Community continues to grow with new placements. They are entering into Phase II of this development.

***FILLMORE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW***

The Board of Review met on March 8 & 10. For all properties, taxable values were increased 1.4%. State Equalized Value (SEV) also increased as follows: Residential 8%, Agricultural 9%, Commercial 9% and Industrial 1%. Taxes are based on Taxable Value so even though the SEV was a larger increase, actual tax increases will be minimal.

**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.

*The Fillmore Township Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7p.m. at the Fillmore Township Hall. 2021-2022 Budget and 2020-2021 Financial Statements along with meeting minutes are available on our website fillmoretownship.com*

**BURNING PERMITS**

**If you live in the Graafschap Fire**

**Department area call 616-396-4060;**

**Hamilton Fire**

**Department area call 616-886-6534;**

**Overisel Fire Department area call 269-686-5222.**

**OBTAIN A BURNING PERMIT BEFORE YOU BURN. FINES AND PENALTIES COULD BE LEVIED IF YOU BURN WITHOUT A PERMIT AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS CALLED.**

*The Fillmore Township Planning Commission will hold their quarterly meetings for 2021 at 7pm on February 1, May 3, August 2 and November 1.*

*All other meetings are by special request.*

Fillmore Township Hall  
4219 52nd Street  
Holland, MI 49423

### **PROPERTY SPLITS**

All property splits or boundary line adjustments must have the approval of the Township, before a survey and new descriptions are made. This is for your benefit as different zoned areas have different requirements to be met.

### **M.A.C.C.**

As a member of the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, Fillmore Township shares resources provided by the organization. The most obvious is the use of Federal & State Funds for road improvements, through the A.C.R.C. Projects inline for funds from the M.A.C.C. include 136th Ave., Blue Star Highway and intersection improvements on-40 from 136th Ave. to 48th St.

Area farmers may also be eligible for programs administrated by M.A.C.C. under the Water Shed division.

### **FILLMORE TOWNSHIP RECYCLE**

Recycling at the Township property will continue. There has been a steady increase of costs for this service, however it is a service that many take advantage of. For the best use, **please place all cardboard and papers in the smaller bin. It is also important that all boxes be flattened.** When using the larger bin, **please do not place plastic bags filled with recyclables without emptying the bags.** This is for 2 reasons; large bags take more volume in the bin and recycle providers do not open the bags, they go directly into the land fill. This is not the intention of recycling and the Township is charged extra for dumping fees.

### **FILLMORE TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP**

A clean-up day is planned for Saturday, May 1, 2021. 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.**