



FILLMORE TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHED 1849

Spring 2023

FROM THE SUPERVISOR, *KEN DEWEERDT*

Township Office

Hours:

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

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:

Keith Potter, Chair
Marc Tucker, Secretary
Fred VanTubergan

Fire Board:

Robert Yonker
Tim Hofman

Board of Review:

Gary Balder
Randy Yonker
Doug VerHoeven

Assessor:

Jim Bush

Cemetery Sexton:

John Yonker

Phone: 269.751.7655

Fax: 269.751.6065

www.fillmoretownship.com

fillmoretown-
ship@gmail.com

Since the last newsletter spring of 2022, we continue to serve our residents with the day to day operations of normal township responsibilities. Our departments of Clerk, Treasurer and Assessor are regularly performing their duties so as to get their proper paper work and correspondence to our residents in a timely manner.

In the past we have reported activity of our fire and police departments. This past year has seen an increase in response calls for both departments. Our fire department calls were as follows; Graafschap Fire a total of 894 calls of which 211 were into Fillmore Township. Overisel a total of 182 calls of which 42 were into Fillmore Township and Hamilton Fire a total of 504 calls of which 78 were into Fillmore Township. Our Township Deputy Dillon Schmitt, whom we contract with from the Allegan County Sherriff Department for Fillmore and Overisel Township responded to a total of 1101 calls, 725 of those were into Fillmore Township. Thank-you for supporting our renewed millage for our deputy, which we share with Overisel Township.

The other renewed millage that was passed this past year was the road millage. With the increased cost of road maintenance, it seems even with increase revenue, less work can be contracted . Last construction season we had 3 miles of resurfacing and 5 miles of chip/seal. This coming year we plan on repaving 143rd Ave. from 56th Ave. to M-40 and 52nd St from 141st Ave. to M-40 in addition to chip/seal which is yet to be determined.

As reported in the last years newsletter, all government received monies from the Federal Government in the form of A.R.P.A. Funds. Fillmore Township received \$290,000.00 to be spent on designated projects. At this time the Township has supported our Fire Departments for new equipment or building improvements for a total of \$82,919.81 which includes the Township Hall added new ventilation equipment and our water tower received maintenance and inspections.

Recycling continues to be a popular service, so much so that the Board passed a Resolution in October to place a recycle fee on the winter tax bill. This \$25.00 per household will help cover the cost of the containers at the Township in addition by entering into the Allegan County Recycle Program it allows additional opportunities for recycling at the County Recycle Site.

When tax bills come out there are always questions about drain charges. The Township has no control over drain assessments as they are determined by the Allegan County Drain Commission. Just because there isn't a drain on your property doesn't disqualify you from being assessed a drainage fee, as all the water eventually ends up in a county drain.

Building activity was strong again in 2022. A total of 49 permits for new construction were taken out. A reminder that all permits for building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical must be taken at the Township.

Finally, Fillmore Township lost a real public servant this past January when Jerome Bush passed away. Jerome served Fillmore Township as Supervisor and Planning Commission member for many years. He led in the building of the present Township Hall along with producing our first Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

Minutes of the Township Board and Planning Commission can be viewed on the Township Website. Minutes are available after approval following the preceding months meeting.

Also available on the website is the budget which runs from April 1—March 31 of the following year, along with the financial statement. This statement shows the revenue and expenditures during that same time frame.

Additional information such as tax records are available through the Allegan County link.

A.R.P.A. (American Rescue Plan Act)

Fillmore Township was the recipient of Federal A.R.P.A. funds this past year, a total of \$290,000.00 was granted. There is a limited number of projects that these funds can be used for and the Board is proceeding slowly in determining projects for these funds. As you may expect there are many parties that have requested funding, the Board will use the monies to best benefit our Township Residents. There is a window of several years where the funds can be used.

HERRICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Board has renewed the agreement with Herrick Public Library enabling Fillmore Township residents to continue the use of that resource. Unlike many of other entities that have a Library millage, the Township uses funds from the General Fund. This is something the Board feels is a service to our residents. We encourage you to use the resources that Herrick Public Library has to offer. The amount supported by the Township is \$33,647.30.

RECYCLING

Recycling is also a service provided to Township residents with the placement of bins at the Township Office. Household items including glass, tin and plastic are placed in the large container, please make sure all items are clean and flattened if possible. Cardboard and paper products are placed in the small container. Please flatten all boxes. **No waste of any kind is accepted, in fact the placement of such items contaminate the entire container making everything else not recyclable requiring it to be brought to the landfill.** Curbside service is also available by contacting various contractors. Please, use this service with good recycle practices as it could be discontinued if it is misused.

The Township plans on holding a spring clean-up at the Township Office on April 30 from 9am—3pm. This will be the only clean-up held for 2023. This is an opportunity to dispose of unwanted household items.

Tires and appliances will be taken, however there will be an additional charge for those items.

An attendant will be on duty and collect a fee depending on the volume amount. **No hazardous items are accepted.**

FROM THE TREASURER, LEAH FOLKERT

Summer tax bills will be mailed by July 1, 2023 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, 2024. **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. I'm seeing an increase in check writing errors. It is helpful if you include a phone number on your check in case there's an issue. 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."

FROM THE CLERK, ELAINE MOKMA

2023 ELECTION DATES:

May 2, 2023—

HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$41,180,000. Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Hamilton Community Schools, 4815 136th Avenue, Hamilton, Michigan 49419-9604, telephone: (269) 751-5148. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

ZEELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

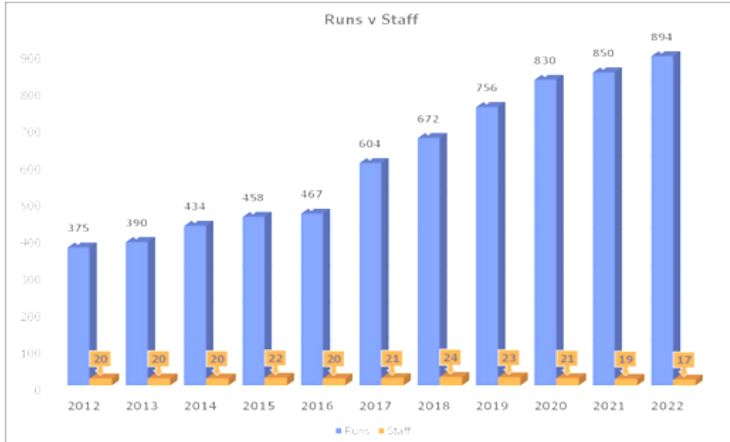
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW 18.7365 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 2024. SINKING FUND MILLAGE PROPOSAL .9802 MILL FOR 10 YEARS AND .0198 MILL FOR 10 YEARS TO RESTORE HEADLEE REDUCTION. Full text of the ballot propositions may be obtained at the administrative offices of Zeeland Public Schools, 183 West Roosevelt, Zeeland, Michigan 49464-0110, telephone: (616) 748-3000.

Prior to every election, the tabulators are accuracy tested. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast in **ALL PRECINCTS AND COUNTING BOARDS** at the election meet the requirements of law. This testing is open to everyone. Information regarding time and date of this test is published in the [Holland Sentinel](#) and also on the Township Website.

GRAAFSCHAP FIRE DEPARTMENT

"How many firefighters will be available in 2023"

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Runs	375	390	434	458	467	604	672	756	830	850	894
Difference %	-	4%	11%	6%	2%	29%	11%	13%	10%	2%	5%
Staff	20	20	20	22	20	21	24	23	21	19	17
Difference %	-	0%	0%	10%	-9%	5%	14%	-4%	-9%	-10%	-11%



The Fillmore Township Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7p.m. at the Fillmore Township Hall.

Recycling is available for Township residents at the Township Hall. Materials for recycling include: paper, plastic containers, glass and cardboard that is flattened.

The Fillmore Township Planning Commission will hold their quarterly meetings for 2023 at 7 p.m. on May 1 August 7 and November 6.

All other meetings are by special request.

Fillmore Township Hall
4219 52nd Street
Holland, MI 49423

FROM THE ASSESSOR, Jim Bush

As a reminder, please check your Assessment Change Notice that you should have recently received. If you own and occupy your home, it should be listed as 100% PRE (“Homeowners Principal Residence”). Also, the CPI (Consumer Price Index) for 2022 was 7.9%. The increase of your Taxable Value, the value that your taxes are based on, should have change by 5% as limited by Proposal A, unless there was something new added or something taken away or there was a change in ownership.

PROPERTY SPLITS

For any property splits or boundary adjustments in the Township, approval is required. Different zoned districts have different requirements, so it is best to start this process at the Township Office before doing any legal or surveying work. Proper recording of all paper work must be filed with the Allegan County Register of Deeds before the transaction is complete.

BURNING PERMITS

A burning permit is required **before you start a fire**, there is no charge for the permit. The fire must be attended at all times by a responsible adult and only burn during daytime hours. Please have a water hose or means of extinguishment on site while the fire is burning. Be aware of wind conditions at all times. Remember, if your fire gets out of control you are responsible, even if you have obtained a burning permit. If possible, burn so smoke or ash from your fire doesn’t create a nuisance for your neighbors.

To view the Burn Ordinance visit www.fillmoretownship.com.

For Fillmore Township residents, and receiving fire department services from:

Graafschap Fire Department, please call 616.396.4060

Overisel Fire Department, please call 269.751.8314

Hamilton Fire Department, please call 269.686.5222 Menu 352 Options, Fillmore Township is #2 (ext. 4065).

This process became effective May 1, 2015.