

WATSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2016

Incorporated on February 16, 1842

1895—118TH AVENUE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010

HOPKINS AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Hopkins Area Fire Department responds to fire and rescue incidents as well as providing medical first response for medical emergencies. The department is governed by an intergovernmental agreement between Hopkins, Monterey, the Village of Hopkins and Watson Township.

Pictured is our new 2015 Ford F550 four door crew cab with HME built apparatus body. It has a 300 gallon polypropylene tank, 248 gpm pump with foam capabilities and booster reel. This truck will carry the station's extraction gear and ice rescue equipment and is based at the Watson Station.

Members of the department will be participating in these upcoming events:

Scotty's Firehouse April 18-19
Memorial Day Parades
Father's Day pancake breakfast June 19th
July 4th activities in Hopkins
Hopkins Homecoming
Halloween traffic control for trick or treaters in Hopkins
Hopkins Christmas events
St. Baldricks Foundation for children's cancer research

The members of the department will again be awarding the Hopkins Firefighters Community Service Scholarship to a Hopkins High graduating senior. This will be our fourth year for the award.

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PROFESSIONAL CODE INSPECTIONS (PCI)

PROFESSIONAL CODE SERVICES handles all building/zoning permits, and ordinance enforcement for Watson Township. A licensed contractor or home owner may obtain Permit Applications by contacting PCI, located at 1575 142nd Ave., Dorrr, MI 49323. Phone (616) 877-2000, 800-877-3335. Kirk Scharphorn Jr. is the Director of Inspections.

The following information is state law and hopefully will help when decisions are made to supplement, replace, or add an auxiliary heat source and water heater.

- Wind Energy And Solar Energy Systems – Adopted 11/5/2014, Effective 1/1/2015
- Ordinance To Regulate The Installation And Use Of Outdoor Furnaces – Adopted 3/5/2015, effective 9/1/2015
- Homemade appliances are not legal in the state of Michigan.
- Appliances shall be installed as per manufacturer's specifications and listings.
- Solid fuel and gas appliances may not use the same chimney flue; they are required to be vented separately.
- A mechanical permit is required for the installation of fireplace units, wood burners of any kind, water heaters and furnace replacements. Outdoor wood burners shall be placed on the lot in compliance with applicable zoning laws for location and smoke.

For additional information on the installations of appliances, contact Professional Code Inspections (PCI), ask for Kirk Scharphorn, Jr. Director of Inspections. 800-628-3335 or (616) 877-2000.

HOURS

Township Hall

Monday: 6 to 8 pm -except Government Holidays of May 30, July 4, September 5, 2016 Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 11 am, or by Appointment.

Drop Box at West Entrance

Phone - (269) 672-7254

Fax - (269) 672-5488

E-mail: watsontownship@watsontownship.org

Website: www.watsontownship.org

Township Assessor

Kevin Kutscher

Phone - (269) 672-7254

Phone - (269) 673-9616

Assessor's Hours: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Wednesday of Every Month

9:00am - 12:00pm

WATSON TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS

By law, voters must now show photo identification (e.g. driver's license, college or high school id) in order to receive a ballot and vote. Please remember when you come to vote, you need to bring a photo id in order to receive a ballot. *Anyone wishing to run for an elected position should contact our office for information and filing forms.*

Elections Dates for 2016 are:

March 8, 2016 – Presidential Primary

May 3, 2016 – Election

August 2, 2016 Primary Election

November 8, 2016 General Election

If you have any questions about any of the upcoming elections or would like to obtain an absentee ballot please call the township clerk at (269) 672-7254 (office) or (269) 217-9899 (cell). You may also email the clerk at

watsontownship@gmail.com (hall) or

kellimorris11@gmail.com (home).



TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor
Pam Brown
(616) 490-1627
psbrown2295@gmail.com

Clerk
Kelli Morris
(269) 217-9899-cell
jkas1993@gmail.com

Treasurer
Sue Jones
(269) 355-2752

Trustee
Rod Zeinstra
(269) 672-7254
zeinstrar@gmail.com

Trustee
Chuck Andrysiak
(269) 672-9497
cjandry@att.net

TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairperson
Michelle Harris
269-217-5971
mcmroost@gmail.com

Secretary
Bruce Bos
269-672-9895
bbos@twin-pines.net

Vice Chair
Troy Baker
269-672-5515
Gto3x2@hotmail.com

TWP Representative
Chuck Andrysiak
(269) 672-9497
cjandry@att.net

Member
Beverly McKinnon
(269) 793-7145
zbevz@att.net

Member
Barb Wroblewski
(269) 793-7425
bluevelvet@BTC-BCI.com

Member
Taking applications to fill position, if interested contact the Township Office.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 7, 2016 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

- The cost will vary from \$5 to \$25 a truck load.
- **ADOPT A ROAD:** Clean up a roadside and no cost will be assessed. You must call the clerk to sign up.

A 40 yard container will be on site for any metal that a magnet will pick up. Included are appliances, stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers (Freon removed), water heaters, car parts, snowmobiles, etc. **No bricks, blocks, brush, propane tanks, gas tanks, or oil based paint cans.**

BURN PERMITS

If you are burning brush or anything at your residence you must call 686-5222 between the hours of 6a.m. and 6pm. (this is an automated phone system). Please call the day you want to burn for the permit, they keep it on file at dispatch for the day.

RECYCLING

The recycling container at the township hall is currently open 24 hours a day, 7 days week for your convenience. **This service is in jeopardy of being removed as non-recyclable materials (furniture, tires, etc.) continue to be dumped at the recycling center**, if this continues, the township will have no choice, but to remove container or implement a different system.

DUST CONTROL

Michigan Chloride Sales, LLC will be doing the dust control for Watson Township for the 2016 season, at a cost of \$13,480.50 per application. This product is a natural brine process suggesting a need for only two applications. The first application to be done the first week in June the second the end of July and a third if needed.

WAYLAND AREA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Wayland Area EMS (Ambulance Service) serves all of Watson Township. A membership program called Vital Care is available for the residents of Watson Township. The fee is \$37 dollars a year/or \$111 for 3 yrs. with the 4th year free. This program allows your ambulance bill to be only what your Medicare or insurance provider will pay with no extra cost to you. Applications for the membership program can be picked up at the Township Hall, or call and one will be mailed to you. For more information contact Wayland Area EMS at (269) 792-2958 or call the Township office at (269) 672-7254.

ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Allegan County issues, please contact District #6 County Commissioner Jon Campbell, 1639 Elm Street, Otsego, MI 49078-9314. Phone: (269) 694-4632 E-mail: jcampbell@allegancounty.org

LIBRARIES

Watson Township residents are served by both the Hopkins and Martin libraries. If you have any questions regarding library services or would like to volunteer at either library please contact the Hopkins Library at 269-793-7516 or visit www.hopkins.ilcoop.org. For the Martin JC Wheeler Library call 269-672-7875 or visit www.wheelerpl.michlibrary.org

TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Chairperson

Jim Lautenschlager
(269) 501-1486
jimlauten@gmail.com

Secretary, PC Representative

Secretary,
Michelle Harris
(269) 217-5971

Vice Chair

James Kelsey
(269) 793-7763

Twp Representative

Rod Zeinstra
(269) 672-7254
zeinstrar@gmail.com

Member

John VanDyke
(269) 793-3526

CEMETERY/PLANTINGS SEXTON

Pam Brown
Phone - 616-490-1627

Any questions regarding Watson Township cemeteries, including plantings, etc., should be directed to the Watson Township Cemetery Sexton.

Watson Township has two cemeteries the Hicks Cemetery located on the corner of 14th St. and 117th Ave., and the Miner Cemetery located on 20th Street. Please find our ordinance rules on plantings of flowers, placing of pots and decorations posted at both cemeteries.

In 2015 maintenance work was done at the Hicks Cemetery located at 14th & 117th Ave., with the removal of broken containers, over grown perennials, and repairs to older headstones. We will be doing the same at the Miner Cemetery located on 20th Street year. If you would like the plants that have become over grown by a headstone belonging to you please contact the sexton as soon as possible. For the ease of mowing, when leaving decorations, please keep them in line with the headstone.

Questions regarding the purchase of cemetery lots, contact the sexton or the Township Office at 269-672-7254.

MEETING DATES

Watson Township Board @ 7 pm

- April 7, 2016 (Annual Budget Meeting)
- May 5
- June 2
- July 14
- August 4
- September 1
- October 6
- November 3
- December 1
- January 5, 2017
- February 2
- March 3
- April 6 (Annual Budget Meeting)

Planning Commission @ 7 pm

- April 27
- June 22
- July 27
- September 28
- October 26
- December 7
- February 1, 2017
- March 22

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Organizational meeting is the 1st Tuesday in March. All other meetings as noticed.
- Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 2017 @ 7 pm

Board of Review

- Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 @ 6 pm
- Tax Protest Heard: Monday, March 13, 2017 from 9 am to Noon; 2 pm to 5 pm and Tuesday, March 14, 2017 from 1 pm to 4 pm; 6 pm to 9 pm

Assessor Hours

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of the month 9 am to 12 pm
- Contact Township Office at 269-672-7254 or Home Office at 269-673-9616

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

For questions on the county roads in Watson Township, email Larry Brown, rlarry@alleganroads.org or call the office at (269) 673-2184.

NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS

All legal notices are published in the Allegan County News, all other non-legal notices in the Penasee Globe.

HOPKINS AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT CONT.

The members of the department will again be awarding the Hopkins Firefighters Community Service Scholarship to a Hopkins High graduating senior. This will be our fourth year for the award.

In 2015 the fire department responded to 128 fire/rescue incidents, 19 of which were in Watson. Our first responders went to 203 calls for medical assistance of which 65 were in Watson Township. Total calls for the year 421. Most of our firefighters hold medical licenses and must renew every 3 years.

Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and to practice your safety plans at home and at work, check and clean your chimneys.

If interested in joining the fire department, contact the township office or the Hopkins Area Fire Department.

Watson Township
1895—118th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-672-7254

PROPERTY TAXES

Summer taxes are due by **September 14th** and winter taxes are due by **February 14th**. ***We do not accept postmarks***, your tax payments must be at the township office by the due date. You may drop them off in the drop box located in the hall entryway. The Office is open weekly on Mondays from 6-8 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11 am and Wednesday from 9-Noon.

Additional days for tax payments are:

September 10, December 26, 2016, February 11, and February 28, 2017 from 9am to 5 pm. The last day to pay is February 15th without penalties and February 28th is the last day we can accept payment at the Watson Township Office. After the 28th, payments must go to the Allegan County Treasurers Office at the Allegan County Court House. If you have questions you may call the township office at 29-672-7254.

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

Hall rental is \$60 for township residents and \$120 for non-residents. Hall rental is free for non-profit groups, clubs, organizations, and funeral luncheons. If you would like to rent the Township Hall for an event, call the Township office (269) 672-7254, or email at watsontownship@watsontownship.org.

Smoking at the Township Hall is prohibited and NO ALCOHOL.

RECYCLE/DISPOSE USED MOTOR OIL

Little Pines—Otsego

Open: 8 am—6 pm, Monday thru Friday
Contact: Jim
(269) 692-3233

Auto Zone—Allegan

Open: 8 am—9 pm, Monday thru
Saturday and 10 am—7 pm, Sunday
(269) 686-7877

Wieland's—Plainwell

Open: 8 am—5 pm, Monday thru Friday
(269) 685-9125

UNUSED/OUTDATED MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Unused or outdated pharmaceutical medications that you don't know what to do with may be dropped off at the Allegan County Sheriffs office Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Drop box is located in their main lobby. This is for pharmaceutical medications only, no illicit narcotics or sharps are to be placed in the box.