



August 2024 “in the loop” monthly email update

Message from Treasurer Metz

Summer taxes are due by each September 14th. Payments made after the due date incur an additional 1% interest charge at the beginning month.

Feel free to reach out to the Treasurer’s office with questions or concerns: treasurer@dextertownship.org

Notes from the Board of Trustee Meeting – August 20, 2024

- **Approval of Emergency Preparedness Plan**

- At the June 2024 meeting, the Board of Trustees directed the Supervisor to use the Washtenaw County emergency preparedness plan template to create an emergency preparedness plan for Dexter Township. Doing so is optional for townships with populations of less than 10,000, but it is a best practice. The Fire Chief has reviewed the requirements for emergency response from DAFD and has affirmed that DAFD understands and can comply with its role in the plan. The plan specifies that the Supervisor has been appointed as the Municipal Emergency Management Liaison, responsible for working with the County Emergency Operations Manager on all matters pertaining to emergency management within the township.

- **Engineering Standards**

- Development of standards was funded through the FY25 General Fund Budget allocation as follows:
 - Provide \$20K to engage OHM, Dexter Township’s engineer, to develop engineering standards that protect our waterways in compliance with Washtenaw County Water Commission’s approved standards

The proposed engineering standards standardize, simplify, and make more transparent our Zoning Permit application process, consistent with our strategic plan’s top priority of “Conduct government

operations in a clear and transparent nature.” The standards incorporate and recognize engineering and construction standards of multiple entities, including the Washtenaw County Road Commission, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), nationally recognized institutions, and other state and national agencies. Construction methods are required to be in accordance with MDOT standards. Technical requirements for project approval by the Township are specified in the standards, which are attached. (see BOT packet for August 2024)

These standards further our strategic plan priority of “Stewardship of our waterways and land.” The standards require that certain projects be approved by the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner’s office (ie, projects that modify the quantity or location of impervious surfaces, and those that require site plan review by the Township). OHM will attend the August 20, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting to present a summary of the proposed new engineering standards. This presentation was made at the August Board of Trustee meeting and the motion to adopt the “Dexter Township Standard Specifications for Construction of Public and Private Improvements” was approved. (The full document will be available on dextertownship.org in the next couple weeks, following minor typographical revisions)

Dexter Township Supervisor Report August 13, 2024

- **Warning Sirens**

- The Township’s investment in our warning sirens is already paying off in terms of improved emergency preparedness on behalf of our residents. West Shore Services, the new warning siren maintenance provider, is installing federal signal universal controllers in the exterior cabinets on each warning siren as part of the hardware and software upgrades authorized by the Board of Trustees. Their assessment identified that siren #4 (near McGregory and Dexter-Pinckney Road), has two blown amplifiers that need to be replaced. Siren #8 (near Huron River Drive and North Territorial) needs to be reprogrammed because no sound is emitting from the siren when activated. The other 14 warning sirens are working appropriately and emitting the correct sounds. West Shore Services anticipates that these two sirens will be repaired by the end of the month. They will provide additional information regarding the installation of the federal signal universal controllers by the fall. The material and equipment have been ordered, installation date TBD.

- **Fall Clean-Up Date**

- Dexter Township’s annual fall cleanup day will be on **Saturday, October 26th from 9:00am to noon at Dexter Town Hall, 6880 Dexter-Pinckney Road**. Vendors are on deck for scrap metal, shredding, electronic waste, and tires. No bulk items (such as mattresses), however, large metal items like refrigerators and washers/dryers are welcome as scrap metal. If you are interested in volunteering at clean-up day, please contact info@dextertownship.org

- **Planning and Zoning Staffing**

- The Zoning Administrator position has been posted and we are accepting applications. I hope to have an update on the hiring process at the September meeting.
- The Board of Trustees requested benchmark data on code enforcement from our neighboring townships. I have collected data from three townships and am seeking data from three more. Our neighboring townships staff code enforcement as follows:
 - Ann Arbor Township (pop. 5K) – reactive, staffed on an as-needed basis, average of 8 hours/week – position is vacant
 - Scio Township (pop. 14K) – reactive, staffed on an as-needed basis, average of 8 hours/week – position is vacant
 - Webster Township (pop. 6K) – reactive (although some proactive enforcement has occurred recently), staffed on an as-needed basis, average of 8 hours/week
- I'm also working with our attorney on an opinion on the use of our Police millage for code enforcement. This will be a closed session discussion topic at the September board meeting

- **Township Security Cameras**

- Prior to the primary election in August, we upgraded our security system at the Township building to comply with the current election law. MCL – Section 168.761d provides that security cameras must record the Township ballot drop box 75 days before an election, plus the day of the election. Our previous security software system only allowed 30 days of video storage, so we also updated the hardware associated with our security system. We have also added additional cameras for better views of the parking lot, as well as cameras that monitor the back of the building where there are two entrances to the AV ballot counting location. These new security features bring us into compliance with election laws, and they increase security for our staff and residents.

- **Technology Upgrades for Communications and Livestreaming**

- The Township is moving to Zoom from Livestream for its public meetings, because Zoom allows for remote public participation. By using Zoom, we will also have the opportunity to livestream meetings to platforms such as YouTube and Facebook to reach a wider audience. Zoom has interactive features such as polls, Q&A, and chat, allowing for real-time engagement and participation. We will be making the transition to Zoom for our public meetings by October 2024.

- The In the Loop electronic newsletter, managed by Trustee Nolte and Office Administrator Sam Edwards, has about 1,500 subscribers and is extremely popular among residents. We currently use an email program to manage subscribers and issue the newsletter. We are researching converting In the Loop to a purpose made eNewsletter list-serve program that allows subscribers to enroll and unenroll automatically, and provides a newsletter lay-out for the content. A few different options we are looking at are Mailchimp, MailerLite, and ConvertKit.

Trustee Scott Report August 2024

- **Cell Service:**

- I continue to correspond with Verizon and their real estate team. So far no suitable locations for a new tower have been identified. The team is evaluating several additional options and have been knocking on doors in the area they would like to place a tower to see if any residents are willing to locate a tower on their property. I also met with DAFD Chief Armstrong to discuss service issues at Station 2. I continue to collect addresses with service issues to report to the providers.

- **SEMCOG:**

- SEMCOG is hosting a Renewable Energy Academy. Please see below from their email announcement.

“SEMCOG is pleased to announce an upcoming Renewable Energy Academy Workshop hosted by Michigan’s Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). For our region, this workshop will take place September 5 in Novi, MI.

The Renewable Energy Academy (REA), designed and executed by the EGLE Energy Services Unit, is the one-stop-shop in Michigan for all of the expertise, resources, and technical assistance related to utility-scale renewable energy planning and zoning. With PA 233 taking effect in November 2024, SEMCOG is encouraging our communities to attend this workshop where the REA team will provide local officials, planning commissioners, and/or planning staff with the information needed to proactively prepare for the new siting landscape. The workshop will be a five-hour long deep-dive into planning and zoning for large, utility-scale solar, wind, and battery storage systems, from the basics of grid-connection to the specific zoning pathways each community should consider.

This workshop will not be focusing on policy and rather is meant to provide neutral guidance and spark discussions around what options best reflect your municipality's interests. The intended audience are local government officials, planning commissioners, planning staff, etc. A webinar and other recorded materials focused on this topic will soon be available for the general public to access via the Renewable Energy Academy webpage [<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/materialsmanagement/energy/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-academy>] .”

Project updates – for BOT August 20, 2024 Meeting

Submitted by Trustee Karen Nolte

- **Broadband Project**

- Not too much to report- however, cabling is occurring on McKinley by MEC and residents are being approached to enroll in their services. Projected time to connect is before the end of this year. Having Spectrum and MEC work in this corner of our Township fills a large gap in broadband services for our residents. Again, thank you to Washtenaw County & the Broadband Task Force for their forethought in setting a 100% goal of connection for County residents, years ago. It has been a pleasure working with all parties for the last 3 years.

- **Multi Lake Water & Sewer Authority**

- MLWSA continues to be short staffed and is actively looking for staff members, both field and office. Interested parties please contact the MLWSA offices at 734-426-9797
- The July heavy rains created challenges for the staff, with the vacuum system hit hard and being partially inoperable for approximately 48 hours in July. Accompanying the heavy rains, we would like to request residents make sure their sump pumps are not draining into their sewer systems. Sump pumps hooked to the sewer system create a detrimental situation and overstresses the vacuum system.
- Copper Meadows subdivision in Dexter Twp. continues to require a remedy for the odors emitting from their pumps. Another meeting is set for August with a new company to review possible odor prevention methods.

- **Cemetery Project**

- Little activity happened in the last month due to the soil conditions. Heavy equipment can cause tread marks and tear up the lawn.

- If you saw the Sun Times – we did have a 180-year-old headstone (Deacon Ethel Walker) returned at the end of July. Thank you again to Cheryl Beuning!

- **GFL & Priority Waste Update**

- In a short conversation with Priority, they did acquire parts of GFL customers. In the acquisition they were promised a set number of GFL trash trucks be turned over to them and that did not occur. They are working to acquire, repair and update trucks for their use. They hope to have resolution in approximately the next 30 days

WANT AN UPDATE ON WHATS HAPPENING WITH PLANNING & ZONING IN OUR TOWNSHIP?

Review pages 91-97 in the Board of Trustees Packet on our website – dextertownship.org

Thank you Megan Masson-Minock for putting this together monthly

RECYCLERS

- Do you recycle plastic in the Township parking lot?
- We need a volunteer for Wednesday's – it only takes about 1 hour per week to assist!
 - The task is emptying the bin and transporting the plastic over to Chelsea High School, you choose the time of day to complete the run, as long as the bin is emptied on Wednesday.
- Please join our team of volunteers to keep this program alive for Chelsea High School and the environment!
- Contact Sam Edwards in the Townhall office (officemanager@dextertownship.org) or send an email to infor@dextertownship.org for more information or to sign up. Your help is SO appreciated!

**Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) Update
Report to Dexter Township Board of Trustees
Submitted by Suzanne Bade, Dexter Twp representatives to HRWC**

HRWC August Update <https://tinyurl.com/yb5t25rn>

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tip: Speak up, speak out

If you see illegal dumping into curbside storm drains and ditches, don't hesitate. Get on the phone. By making that call, you'll be doing your part to protect water quality for our entire community.

Call 1-800-292-4706 to report illegal dumping. For hazardous chemical or flammable spills, call 9-1-1 immediately.

SUDS on the RIVER

Thursday, September 12th

[Get your tickets](#) and gather with us at scenic Delhi Metropark to raise a glass to the Huron River and each other. Enjoy gourmet food and craft brews,

delightful mocktails, live acoustic music, and great friends. Proceeds from ticket sales support HRWC's programs

Notes from Chelsea Library District

September is National Library Card Sign-up Month!

Whether you're looking to enhance your professional skills, find valuable information, or connect with fellow avid readers, a library card unlocks a world of possibilities. CDL strives to be a vibrant community center offering much more than just books. You'll find diverse programs, job search assistance, book clubs, author talks, storytimes, and more. There's truly something for everyone at Chelsea District Library. Getting a library card is easy—visit chelseadistrictlibrary.org to apply online, or stop by the library or any Mobee stop and sign up in person. First-time cardholders who sign up during September will be entered to win a gift card to Serendipity Books. Spread the word!

VISIT THE MOBEE EVERY THIRD TUESDAY EVENING AT DEXTER TOWNSHIP TOWNHALL PARKING LOT

CDL Welcomes Famed MLB Pitcher Jim Abbott to Chelsea!

On September 18, Chelsea District Library welcomes Major League Baseball player and motivational speaker Jim Abbott to Chelsea. Abbott will visit students at Chelsea High School during the school day. The general public is invited to attend an evening interview with Abbott held at the Chelsea High School Auditorium at 7pm. Abbott, raised in Flint, Michigan, is the epitome of perseverance. Born without a right hand, Abbott credits his father with helping him learn to thrive in sports as a child. His willingness to adapt made him a success on the mound—and he shows audiences how they too can learn to adapt to circumstances while remaining determined to succeed. He believes that we're all capable of much more than we give ourselves credit for, a belief that he shares in proving that the potential for excellence lies within all of us.



Enjoy the upcoming holiday weekend and as always, if you have any questions or comments, please reach out to one of the seven Board of Trustee members or drop an email to info@dextertownship.org and it will be forwarded to the proper person for answering.

Take care and thanks for reading "in the loop"