

Fall 2022

Fall 2022:
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Trustee Laura Sanders

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Have you written something that may be of interest to our township residents? We invite you to share your thoughts with us for inclusion in a future newsletter.



"A Community For All Seasons"



DEXTER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Trustee Midterm Report

We are quickly approaching the mid-term of our elected officials in Dexter Township. What better time to review our first two years and all that has been accomplished!

You elected six new Trustees to the Township Board including a new Supervisor, a new Treasurer, a new Clerk, and three new Trustees. The Executive Team and Trustees have been working tirelessly on new improvement projects to allow the Executive Team the ability to restructure and modernize the Township, while continuing to provide the community with the resources it needs, and the Township with financial stability.

Updates within the Township include modernizing the software, electronics, new processes and procedures used within the Township office, a new website (www.dextertownship.org), new committees, and new investment policies.

We ended the 2021-2022 budget with a surplus more than \$300,000. Additionally, we stopped the procedure of budget amendments at year end to

match the annual spending. For full transparency budgeting, you can now see line item by line item in the budget the surplus or overage on the General Ledger.

In early 2022, a strategic planning and budgeting session was held for the Board of Trustees and open invitation to the public. These meetings gave our Board the ability to set a multi-year budget that deploys our budget dollars according to the strategic plan priorities. We set aside generous rainy day and emergency funds, while ensuring our assets are wisely invested.

We have created an email based newsletter to keep residents "In The Loop". Currently, we have approximately 350 residents and would like to increase that number. To enroll, simply complete the boxes at the bottom of the home page on Dexter Township's website, or send your name, phone number, and email address to info@dextertownship.org. You will receive a confirmation email when you join and then all future Township updates.

Dexter Township Clean Up Day

Saturday, October 29th we will be hosting our third community clean up day. These events are co-sponsored by WCWRC and EGLE. We will be accepting scrap metal, electronic waste, tires, and Styrofoam. Document shredding will also be available. We will NOT be accepting household trash, toxic materials, glass, cardboard, plastic, or construction waste. Regular recycling bins will be relocated to the vacant property at the corner of Dexter Townhall Rd. & N. Territorial Rd. the weekend of this event. For additional information or to volunteer please email info@dextertownship.org

Planning & Zoning Department Update

The Planning & Zoning Department has been very busy. The department has undertaken two large projects: The Township Master Plan and digitization of all property records. The Township goal to modernize and update all internal systems continues to be a focus within every department.

Township Master Plan

It has been over ten years since a comprehensive, professional master plan was executed in the Township. Almost 500 Dexter Township residents have responded to our Master Plan survey. Using these survey results, we will develop and approve a new master plan that sets a vision for the future, with zoning laws to follow.

The Township Master Plan is a 15 month long process to ultimately result in a new Master Plan. This will assist in guiding land use and development patterns in our township over the next 10 years. The Master Plan is slated to be finalized in the Spring of 2023.

Additional announcements regarding public meetings where you can share your input and vision for the Township will be posted on our website (www.dextertownship.org).

Digitization of Property Records

Continuing with the modernization of the Township, the Planning and Zoning Department is currently working on digitizing all property records. BS&A Building Department software has been implemented and is linked to the BS&A Assessing software. This software allows the Township Assessor and Treasurer access to all property files and projects.

Over 3,000 property files have been scanned and uploaded to this software so far. This makes the digitization almost complete in this department. Moving forward, all permits and plans will be entered through this software, allowing the Township to function more efficiently within each department.

Recycling Program

Film Plastic Recycling

With the beginning of a successful family pilot project, this program is being developed into a sustainable program for the Township. Dexter Township has collaborated with Chelsea High School (CHS) to assist them in their efforts to win the Trek Competition, and be the school to recycle more plastic than any other nationally. They are well on their way!

Trash Star donated a large orange bin, located in the Township parking lot, for us to collect film. This bin is emptied and delivered to CHS, or they pick up the film multiple times per week.

Styrofoam Recycling

As with plastic collection, we continue to work to make this program sustainable and free standing well into the future. Therefore, we are mirroring the highly successful program in Chelsea, while coordinating the efforts of DART. Styrofoam is collected on specified weekends and times, and all material collected is removed that same weekend.

Due to environmental aspects, such as materials blowing into the neighbors yard or the woods behind us, along with pests, **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY MATERIALS OUTSIDE IN THE TOWNSHIP PARKING LOT.** Leaving plastic outside of the orange bin, or leaving Styrofoam on non-collection dates could jeopardize the programs. If you are interested in helping with recycling efforts, or wish to receive updates regarding recycling, please send your information to: info@dextertownship.org

Introducing New Committees

Dexter Township has started to establish new committees to ensure the community opinions and concerns are heard and addressed. With the start of these new committees, we are working diligently on road repair and land preservation.

Open Space and Land Preservation

The Board of Trustees allocated \$300,000 in American Rescue Plan funds to jump start our land preservation efforts, using an updated and improved open space ordinance to set priorities. Public education around open space is a primary goal and a successful event was held in mid-September to hear public concerns and interests. By the turn out, and the Q&A, this appears to be a topic deeply cared about in our community and has a priority-setting through the master plan.

The OSLP is celebrating their first 70 acres preserved through federal grant funding just over \$450,000, with the assistance of Treemore Ecology. These funds were NOT deployed through Dexter Township, but rather Federal and State grants. A great success, reached within the first 18 months of the committee being formed. Dexter Township is working to catch up to our surrounding townships, that in combination have preserved thousands of acres.

For more information, or additional questions, please reach out to Trustee Sanders at:
lsanders@dextertownship.org

Local Roads Committee

A formal Road Committee has been established and charged, which is another first for Dexter Township. Along with the County, the road committee will be addressing single hauler trash service within our township, since garbage trucks can heavily impact our road system.

For the first time, Dexter Township has approved a multi-year plan to bring our local unpaved roads up to "good" condition or better, as classified by the County Road Commission. This year we started with five top priority roads, including our most widely used roads: McKinley, Wiley, and Huron River Drive.

Additional road concerns or questions can be directed to Trustee Sikkenga at:
ksikkenga@dextertownship.org

Multi Lake Water & Sewer Authority

Thanks to our efforts working with the Multi Lakes Water Sewer Authority Board, their budget balanced. The MLWSA board worked to produce a balanced budget and make hard decisions for future funding. Additionally, the Dexter Township Board worked with Multi Lakes to settle their overpayment to our Township and return funds to MLWSA, earmarked for future capital expenses. The Dexter Township Board of Trustees has set the stage for increased MLWSA revenues and better environmental stewardship, by allowing more properties to participate in the sewer district. Our Master Plan will ensure that expanding the sewer authority does not result in unwanted increases in population density.

Finally, Dexter Township is the largest user of the multi district sewer authority. With that, Dexter Township pledged \$154,000 from our American Rescue Plan funding to MLWSA to replace aging pumps in Copper Meadows and Silver Lake. The remaining funds will be utilized to update capital equipment at the waste water treatment plant on North Territorial.

Broadband Update

This is a very difficult situation for approximately 300 homes in our Township who do not have access to broadband. Currently, there are three sources of revenue to finance broadband county wide: Connection Michigan (a state grant), the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (a Federal grant), and \$14.6 Million dollar dedication from Washtenaw County utilizing their American Rescue Plan dollars. These sources of revenue will ensure every home in Washtenaw County will have cable and access to fiber broadband service by the end of 2024. We are lucky to have the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force, who started in 2017 with the goal of everyone having broadband. Working with the Task Force, the Township Board was able to identify an additional 80 homes without broadband service and enroll them to ensure future service within the gap funding financing. In early October 2022, there will be an interactive map on the Washtenaw County website where you can enter your specific address and view which company will be installing cable to your home and an estimated date of completion.

Dexter Township is scheduled to be fully built out by the end of 2024. That may sound far off, but Washtenaw County is way ahead in the scheduling and execution compared to other counties in the State.

Additional questions may be directed to Trustee Nolte at: knolte@dextertownship.org



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