



JUNE 2024 “in the loop” monthly email update

- **PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY on Dexter Township COMMUNITY PRIORITIES** – we seek to provide services that address the community’s top priorities. Follow the link below to take a short survey or visit our website (dextertownship.org) to access. Your input is greatly appreciated. Please note that our *mandated* activities (running elections, collecting & disbursing taxes, and master planning) are not included because these activities are required by statute.

Questions or comments? Please contact info@dextertownship.org. THANK YOU in advance for participating.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=moxqF01SB0uGgkGUQq-RL6uBeTxla_pFIHH_OH6ERYVUOExLRjQyMk5BWVcxOTY0NDdUSEVaNTJETC4u



Thank you to all the people who assisted in celebrating the Bicentennial in the City of Dexter.

As Dexter Township, we had parade walkers and booth workers manning the Dexter Township booth throughout the festivities on Saturday, the 22nd.

It was a nice afternoon (maybe a tad hot) but nice to engage, share stories, review the historic documents from our township and meet residents.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

INCLUDE – Mark your calendars:

- **COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT** at townhall - Saturday, August 17th at 7:00pm
- **FALL CLEAN-UP DAY** at townhall - Saturday, October 26th 9am-noon
(details to follow on each event)

RENEWABLE ENERGY – UPDATE

Dexter Township held a Community Conversation on the evening of June 17 to discuss the Renewable Energy legislation that will take effect this November. We were happy that over 40 members of our community participated in learning about the legislation and the interactive exercises that were held to gather community input. As of this writing, the summary report has not been finalized by our planner.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission, July 23, will have the summary results of the community conversation and possibly our preliminary ordinance. There will be a public hearing as part of the process of development of the renewable energy ordinance. We will continue to keep you apprised of the process here on “in the loop”.

BROADBAND UPDATE: MEC comes to the SW corner of Dexter Township

Midwest Energy & Communication (MEC) has begun laying cable to assist in reaching the underserved areas of our Township in the SW corner, in particular the Island Lake and North Lima

Center Rd. areas. You can access maps on their website at teammidwest.com. Select the Internet option along the top line and then the construction map and timeline box. From there you can zoom into the Dexter Township area and the red sections are being built out by MEC. MEC expects to have installations and hook ups by the end of 2024. There is also a Check Eligibility box on their website for you to enter your address.

We are aware that many areas remain to connect. County grants and awards were made to Spectrum, MEC, and Mercury. Currently, Spectrum has been laying cable and connecting residents to their services. Mercury has not begun laying cable in our township to date. Mercury is not out of contractual guidelines on their award and must be given time for scheduling and performing the work. Please stay tune or email: info@dextertownship.org and Trustee Nolte will share what information is available. While frustrating not to have these services, we are making progress on this large project. Frustrations maybe high, but due to Washtenaw County's commitment to broadband and their ARPA funding, the broadband build out continues in Dexter Township and we are ahead of many townships in Michigan.

Board of Trustee Highlights from June 18, 2024, meeting:

- First on the agenda – we had the Washtenaw County Sheriff Department presentation to discuss our basic contract, the upcoming county-wide mental health millage proposal, and our emergency preparedness. In May the Board of Trustees authorized upgrading our warning sirens and turning activation over to the County. The Board questioned the future upgrades and our Sheriff's Department informed us our budgetary guidelines for routine maintenance was sufficient to meet future needs. By the graphic in the Board packet, Dexter Township is one of five Townships in Washtenaw County that offers full coverage to our residents with our warning sirens. Also, at the May meeting Board members questioned our emergency preparedness plan, while the Sheriff's Department requires townships with populations of 10K or more to create a plan, we feel it is worth while and we will be working on this topic in the future.
- Additionally, the Board approved a capital expense to support smoke and fire detection at the Dexter Town Hall as part of our FY25 Capital Budget. Additional information is available in the May Board packet on the dextertownship.org website. Future fire safety actions will be taken in future months to address install a dedicated will and fire hydrant at Fire Station No 2 and dry hydrants at key locations within the township. Additionally, Dexter Township does not have a local fire ordinance in place at this time. A fire ordinance is a recommended best practice because it provides the fire department the ability to coordinate fire safety standards in new commercial construction with the building department requirements and enables DAFD to require ongoing fire safety inspections with legal enforcement abilities, like our zoning ordinance enforcement activities. The local fire ordinance applies only to the construction of commercial and multi-family residential buildings; construction of single-family homes is exempt. This would be consistent with the strategic planning priorities approved by the Board of Trustees in fall 2023. The Board did approve the Supervisor to sign an agreement with Allstar Alarm to install a fire alarm and one-year of monitoring and testing.

- Conditional approval was given to the North Lake Fireworks Display to move forward with their annual fireworks display on July 6th (rain date of July 7th), upon receipt of the one missing document required.
- Dexter Township passed a digital records policy. As we continue to digitize our records and create safe storage methods, this policy was approved to move into the future. The full policy is again part of the May 2024 Board of Trustee packet. Additionally, the Archives of Michigan has agreed to accession Dexter Township's historical ledgers including the 1917 and 1924 tax roll ledgers, the 1922, 1924, and 1960 assessment rolls, and some other miscellaneous ledgers including a general ledger from 1964-65 and two Board of Review ledgers from 1962-1967 and 1971. The State Archive will restore and store these records in its climate controlled archival facility and make them available for the public and researchers for generations to come. The State of Michigan will pick up these historical ledgers in the fall of 2024. We are grateful that the State Achieves has interest in these important historical documents, especially since we do not have controlled climate storage. Historical ledgers were display at our booth at the Bicentennial event in June.
- Authorization was given by the Board to continue the upgrades and improvement in the lower level of Townhall. This includes: bathroom upgrades, natural light doors being added and new flooring to replace outdated and worn carpet. Painting and lighting upgrades will complete the lower-level update. In addition, updated presentation monitors and electronic information displays for upper and lower levels will be updated. External signage for the township will replace the existing and worn sign new the main entrance. The new signage will be made of aluminum paneling with a digitally printed backgroup and graphics on reflective vinyl with a UV coating. With the completion of this project, the lower level of the building will be more welcoming, modernized, and user-friendly for staff, elected officials, and members of the public. The completion of the lower-level project will enhance the space both functionally and aesthetically and will serve both current and future needs of the township.
- Board and committee members have expressed concerns about email reliability, cyber security, and service interruptions with our current IT vendor, VC3. Additional issues with our current vendor include the inability for elected officials and staff to work remotely and long wait times to get IT technicians onsite. The Board of Trustees approved cancelling our current 3-year agreement with VC3 at the last board meeting in May. Supplemental IT services are being performed by JEM IT while we continued to search for a formal contract. During the MTA conference in April, board members discovered an IT company called Vector Tech Group. After several meetings with Vector reps, we have determined that Vector can provide us with high value service. If the Board chooses to approve this contract, we can begin the onboarding process with Vector as early as July 22, 2024. This motion was approved to move forward to start the changes and improvements.

- Budget & Finance Status Report: Overall, we are on track, with 16.4% of the year elapsed and 10% of revenue collected and 11% of expended in operating funds. The capital fund transfer has occurred. General Fund operating expenses will likely continue to run low because we will not fully use the Project Coordinator or Deputy Treasurer budget line until mid-year at the earliest. Property tax revenues are collected beginning in CY2025 and so revenues run short of plan until tax collection begins.

Significant transactions this month included:

- \$5,865 for mold remediation in the fireproof “vault,” a storage area for ballots that meets statutory requirements
- Transfers into the Capital Fund of \$1,.2M and into the Farmland & Open Space fund of \$282K occurred, reducing the General Fund balances, and increasing the balances in those two funds commensurately, in accordance with the approved FY25 budget

Multi Lake Water and Sewer Authority (MLWSA) - awarded grant for PFAS assessment project

Multi Lake Water and Sewer Authority has been awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for an Emerging Contaminant Assessment Project (PFAS) in the amount of \$192,806. The purpose of the grant is to fund strategically planned testing to improve impaired water and to protect unimpaired waters in our area. The grant will enable the Authority to test monitoring wells and pumping stations to determine where PFAS is originating, and how it is getting into the wastewater stream at Multi Lake’s facility on North Territorial in Dexter Township. PFAS has been detected in the plant’s

monitoring wells. Nearby homes have been tested and none have detected PFAS.



PFAS is a class of chemicals that is widespread throughout the environment and is known to be a trace contaminant in a wide variety of household products including Teflon, waterproofing compounds, firefighting compounds, and many others. There are virtually no industrial or commercial properties served by Multi Lakes. PFAS has been connected with a wide range of dangerous health effects. Multi Lakes will use the grant to help identify sources and eliminate them to protect area

waters. The term of the grant is from June 30, 2024 – June 30, 2026.

Dexter Township Supervisor Report by Supervisor Karen Sikkenga

June 18, 2024

Warning Sirens

Dexter Township, like many places, has been experiencing more frequent extreme weather events in recent years. To ensure that we are prepared to meet an emergency, Dexter Township has 16 warning sirens that were installed in 2012/2013. These warning sirens play a crucial role in alerting residents to impending natural disasters, severe weather, or other local emergencies which may directly impact their safety. Dexter Township contracted with Frontline Plus, Inc. to install the sirens and that company has contracted to maintain our sirens since then. At the May meeting, the Board of Trustees allocated \$185K to upgrade the 11-year-old siren system.

Historic Records

The Archives of Michigan has agreed to accession Dexter Township's historical ledgers including the 1917 and 1924 tax roll ledgers, the 1922, 1924, and 1960 assessment rolls, and some other miscellaneous ledgers including a general ledger from 1964-65 and two Board of Review ledgers from 1962-1967 and 1971. These are handwritten records, recorded in bound ledger books, that are filled with the history of our Township.

The State Archive will restore and store these records in its climate controlled archival facility and make them available for the public and researchers for generations to come. We are grateful that the State Archives has interest in these important historical documents, especially since we do not have controlled climate storage. Historical ledgers will be on display at our booth at the Bicentennial event in June. We hope members of the public will come by to see and enjoy them before the ledgers journey to Lansing in early Fall.

Bicentennial, Renewable Energy Listening Session, and Other Events

Dexter Township will be marching in the Dexter Bicentennial Parade on June 22, 2024 at 10 am. Come see us, and maybe even see Trustee Laura Sanders' ponies Mink and Flash. Then, at noon, we will be hosting a booth at the carnival.

For anyone reading this report ahead of the meeting, a reminder that on June 17, 2024, Trustees Sanders and Driskell are hosting a Renewable Energy Community Conversation. Residents are

invited to come and learn more about SB277 and what choices we have as a Township with respect to renewable energy installations in our Township.

The Board of Trustees approved fireworks for the 4th of July celebration at Portage Lake at the May meeting, and the North Lakes 4th of July fireworks are on the June agenda.

Resident Survey on Dexter Township Priorities

Dexter Township is inviting residents to participate in a survey to help the Board of Trustees understand our community's priorities. The survey asks residents to rank ten of our current projects and programs, and to rank possible future programs in order of importance. The survey provides opportunities for respondents to write in other preferences, or anything else on their minds. The survey can be accessed on our web site (dextertownship.org) or on our Facebook page. The link can also be found here.

Don't Forget to Vote in August!

Township Closure Absentee ballots for the August primary election will begin to go out before the end of June. Reminder to everyone that Dexter Township will be closed on election day, August 6, 2024, except for election-related matters (voting and registering to vote). For all other matters, like property tax collection matters and planning and zoning questions, we will be closed on election days.

HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL (HRWC) Update – June, 2024 – by Sue Bade

- What is a harmful algal bloom? A harmful algal bloom (HAB) is an overgrowth of algae—often blue-green algae termed cyanobacteria—in freshwater systems like the Huron River and other waters around Michigan. HABs thrive and bloom in warm, slow-moving, nutrient-rich waters, particularly waters with large concentrations of phosphorus. Know before you go: learn more about how to identify, report, and track HABs at HRWC.org/HABS.
- Rain Catchers Collective HRWC and other watershed groups in Southeast Michigan have formed an exciting new initiative called the Rain Catchers Collective to collaborate on regional projects to reduce stormwater runoff. Together, the partner organizations are encouraging Southeast Michigan residents and communities to become Rain Catchers so they can join a growing movement that is protecting the quality of the region's lakes and rivers through proven rain collection practices, such as installing rain gardens and rain barrels. The Rain Catchers Collective will provide information, products, and services to help residents capture rainwater on their property. The Rain Catchers Collective was founded to meet a growing demand for these eco-friendly practices.

PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING:

THANK YOU to our newest volunteers (Mark and Marcus) who stepped forward this month to assist with the recycling film project and joining our OG's (David, Kathryn, Melissa, Lois & Tempie). It is greatly appreciated ! Your efforts have kept this service available to all residents who recycle their plastic film. Thank you very much!

If you utilize the orange bin in the township parking lot to recycle your plastic or film, please consider donating a small amount of your time to ensure we can keep the project going. It takes about 1 ½ hours to complete each time and you can schedule for a specific day of the week or serve on a backup list, to assist when another volunteer is unavailable. We need volunteers to keep this project/service available. If you believe in recycling and keeping the plastic out of our landfills, please consider helping. Contact Samantha Edwards at Townhall (734-426-3767 x151) or send an email to info@dextertownship.org where Trustee Nolte will respond to your questions. Chelsea High School is appreciative for our support in their recycling efforts.

Take care – have a great month and as always, should you have any questions or concerns please reach out to an individual Trustee or email info@dextertownship.org

Please have a safe and happy July 4th Holiday!