



January 2024 has been busy, below is the second release this month of “in the loop” information for our

residents.

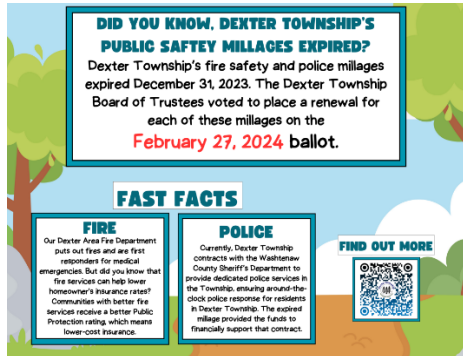
Dexter Township Master Plan Approved: at the January 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting, the final draft of the Townships Master Plan was approved, finalizing the end of an approximate 2-year project. Through multiple community engagements and meetings the master plan was developed as a policy guide designed to create a vision of what Dexter Township wants to look like in the future. It will guide our community in our decisions on land use development and preservation. The plan earmarks five major Cornerstones with underlying building blocks. The cornerstones include Preservation of our Agricultural Heritage, Protection of our Natural Resources, Management of Our Traffic, Thoughtful Planning for Future Development and Creating a Sustainable Community. These building blocks along with our strategic plan will guide your Boards decision making process in the upcoming years.

Additionally, we are pleased to report while our Master Plan and Strategic Plan were developed at different times and input by differing people, they are very compatible in their goals. THANK YOU, the Master Plan Steering Committee, the Planning Committee, Rowan Brady from Beckett & Raeder and everyone who worked on this project and creating a beautiful document to lead us into our future. Please visit dextertownship.org and review the new Master Plan (it will be posted in the near future), it is an interesting read of history, our social characteristics, physical characteristics, land use, housing, transportation, economic development and more. Again, thank you for everyone’s input and work!

Public Safety Millages on February 27, 2024 Ballot:

Fire Safety Millage:

Did you know that a township is not mandated by law to provide fire services? Each municipality must decide on its own whether to fund fire services. Dexter Township, together with Webster Township and



City of Dexter, have been working together since the 1980s to provide quality fire protection. Though the cost of fire services are expected to increase beyond the rates of the expired millage, the township opted to use the fire fund balance maintained by the township to fill any potential shortfall and to not ask voters to approve a millage rate that was more than the mills previously authorized by voters. This approach means township residents will not see any increase in the millage rate that was previously imposed for fire and emergency services in the past 5 years. Local fire services enhance insurance ratings which can help Dexter Township residents maintain affordable home and renter's insurance.

The text of the question for the fire millage to be posed to voters as passed by the Township Board at the special meeting on December 1, 2023 is as follows:

“Proposal to Renew Dexter Township Fire and Emergency Services Millage

In 2018 the voters of Dexter Township approved a 5-year 2.4 mill Fire and Emergency Services millage to continue to provide fire and emergency services in Dexter Township. That millage expired on December 31, 2023. To continue to provide revenue for the provision of Fire and Emergency Services, the Township is permitted by law to seek a renewal of the expired millage. This renewal will not increase the millage rate that was imposed in 2023 for fire and emergency services.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Township of Dexter, Washtenaw County, Michigan, be increased by \$2.3543 per \$1000 of taxable value (2.3543 mill) for a period of five (5) years, 2024 through 2028 inclusive, as a renewal of a previously voter authorized millage that expired on December 31, 2023 to provide funds for all lawful fire and emergency services including personnel, equipment and facilities? It is estimated that 2.3543 mill would raise approximately \$1,160,576.04 when first levied in 2024.”

Police Services Millage

Currently, Dexter Township contracts with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department to provide dedicated police services in the Township, ensuring around-the-clock police response for residents in Dexter Township. The expired millage provided the funds to financially support that contract.

The text of the question for the police millage to be posed to voters as passed by the Township Board at the special meeting on December 1, 2023 is as follows:

“Proposal to Renew Dexter Township Police Services Millage

In 2006, the voters of Dexter Township approved a 5-year, 1.5 mill Police Services Millage. In 2011, 2014 and 2018, the voters of Dexter Township approved renewals to that millage at lawful rates to continue to provide Police Services in Dexter Township. The 2018 millage renewal of 1.4199 mill expired on December 31, 2023. To continue to provide revenue for the provision of Police Services, the Township is permitted by law to seek a renewal of the expired millage. This renewal will not increase the millage rate that was imposed in 2023 for police services.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Township of Dexter, Washtenaw County, Michigan, be increased by \$1.3903 per \$1000 of taxable value (1.3903 mill) for a period of five (5) years, 2024 through 2028 inclusive, as a renewal of a previously voter authorized millage to provide funds for all lawful police services including personnel, equipment, and facilities? It is estimated that 1.3903 mill would raise approximately \$685,362.47 when first levied in 2024.”

There will be a **COFFEE CHAT on Monday, January 29th from 5pm – 6pm at Townhall** to answer your questions on the **Public Safety Millage – Hosted by Trustee Lonnie Scott** (lscott@dextertownship.org), **Please mark your calendars and join us.**

SINGLE HAULER PROJECT – We continue to reach out into our community to listen and gather information from our residents on this topic.

There is a short questionnaire posted on our website (dextertownship.org) -simply click on this link <https://forms.gle/kK1hUgNwUG3x2dCs5> or visit our home page on the website. It would be greatly appreciated if you could have 5 minutes and respond. We are gathering providers, current costs, and what curbside services you prefer. All important information to have as we develop a request for proposal over the next couple months. Additionally, we will have a coffee hour chat on this topic in March 2024, date, and time to be announced soon. Please feel free to send your comments, thoughts, and opinions to info@dextertownship.org, in the meantime, we love to hear from you.

2024 EARLY VOTING SITES

DEXTER TOWNSHIP

Early voting will be available between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm for nine (9) consecutive days before each state or federal election beginning on the second Saturday prior to the election and ending on the Sunday immediately before the election. Voters may visit their regional site or the county "central" site.

Early voting dates and hours for the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary are:

Saturday, February 17 – Sunday, February 25

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LOCATIONS

Regional Site:
Sylvan Township Hall
18027 Old US 12
Chelsea, MI 48118

Central Site:
Washtenaw Co. Learning Resource Center
4135 Washtenaw Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

9 Day Early Voting Any Michigan Voter may choose to participate in 9-Day Early Voting Proposal 2 gives voters the flexibility to cast their vote 9-days early in all elections and for

additional days and hours beyond what the constitution required.

All Michigan voters now have the right to vote early in every statewide and federal election. In those elections, early voting must be offered for at least nine consecutive days, beginning on the second Saturday before the election and ending on the Sunday before the election, for at least eight hours a day.

The Dexter Township 9- Day Early Voting will be held at [Sylvan Township](#) (18027 Old US 12, Chelsea, MI 48118). If you have any questions or wish to REGISTER TO VOTE, please reach out to the Clerk’s office at Dexter Twp Townhall (734-426-3767)

Absentee Ballots will start mailing out on January 18th - Watch your mailbox

HUDSON MILLS METROPARK PASS PROJECT: Many residents have taken advantage of this offer, slightly over 1,100 homes have emailed requests. Passes are available through the township until March 29th – send your name, complete address, age, and phone number to info@dextertownship.org, only (1) one pass per household address. Many have asked

why we require your age; we need to know what type of pass to purchase for you, adult or senior (62+). If you do not receive mail at your township address, please give a proper mailing address in your email. Your address must be in Dexter Township to take advantage of this offer. See you in the park!

Dexter Township Supervisor Report January 16, 2023 - by Supervisor Karen Sikkenga

Office Remodel

The office remodel is continuing to progress well and we expect the construction to be complete by the end of January. The construction is on schedule, and we are already enjoying the more functional and aesthetically pleasing environment. Sound panels in the board room were installed recently which will help minimize echoes and improve the overall acoustics in the room. This will be especially helpful for residents who are hard of hearing. Additional shelving is also being created in the front office area for more convenient storage of office supplies. Finally, upgraded LED lighting was installed which is more environmentally friendly, minimizes eyestrain, and can even help prevent headaches in the workplace. The new office furniture should arrive in the middle of February. The furniture we requested will be much more ergonomic, modernized, and comfortable. Furniture delivery is later than originally scheduled, due to lingering post-COVID supply chain issues exacerbated by the holidays. Additional smaller projects are also underway, including removing the outdated heating grates and thermostat in the board room, updating the handles and ceiling fans in the lower-level bathrooms, adding new Dexter Township signage that will be visible from the road and the parking lot, and eradicating the mold in the fire safe room in the lower level of the building. We will move forward with these items if they fit within our approved FY24 budget.

Emergency Sirens

We are looking into switching our service provider for Dexter Township's 16 warning sirens to a company in Michigan. West Shore Sirens services many municipalities' sirens within Washtenaw county and is the company that the county is the most familiar with.

Waterways Committee

Trustee Karen Nolte will be coming to the Board of Trustees in February with a request to establish a Waterways Committee. The overall purpose would be to create a central focus on our township water issues and bring community members together to address the challenges and concerns, consistent with our strategic plan and master plan principles. Listening, learning and education would most certainly be the first year's focus.

IT Support

We have put the change in IT Support on hold until after the upstairs renovation is complete. We have interviewed several candidates and will have a recommendation for the Board of Trustees in February when the office moves are completely closed out. We have recently upgraded our livestreaming capabilities for board meetings by incorporating a quicker computer and additional methods for sharing materials during meetings that both board members and guests can utilize. We also acquired a new storage rack for the various pieces of audio/visual equipment needed to

record board meetings. With this new storage rack, tech related issues will be easier to troubleshoot, and it looks much more professional than the previous equipment rack.

Committee Reports

I continue to encourage members of the Board of Trustees to provide regular reports on their committees. The Local Roads Committee did not meet in December. The group met on January 10, the day the board packet was finalized, leaving no time for a formal report to be submitted. The Local Roads Committee is focusing on getting the word out about the upcoming Police Millage and Fire Millage at the end of February, with an aim to provide good public education about the interface between local roads and public safety services. For example, the LRC understands that the Washtenaw County Roads Commission uses a prioritization rubric for snow plowing that places local roads, especially neighborhood roads, as a lower priority. Private roads are not plowed by the County. The firefighters and deputies assigned to Dexter Township will assist with helping our residents get to emergency services when roads have not been plowed, a service that is supported by the millages. As another example, residents contact the Local Roads Committee with speeding complaints, and we forward those complaints to our Sheriff's deputies for enhanced enforcement. Recently, the Sheriff's Department placed a speed monitor at a location in Dexter Township at the LRC's request. These services are provided as part of the service level agreement with the Sheriff's Department that is supported by the Police Millage. The LRC is preparing a newsletter with neutral information, and will be writing a joint letter to The Sun Times editor.

End of Supervisor's Report -

HOA's – thank you for those that have sent their contact information to us already. If your neighborhood has an HOA, please share the contact information with us. The information will stay for township use only, but it provides us an avenue to reach out when something may affect your neighborhood. Simply forward the contact information to info@dextertownship.org. **THANK YOU**

DEXTER SENIOR CENTER NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024 – VISIT DEXTERTOWNSHIP.ORG TO VIEW THE NEWSLETTER IN ITS ENTIRETY.

[HTTPS://WWW.DEXTERTOWNSHIP.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/JANUARY-2024-NEWSLETTER.PDF](https://www.dextertownship.org/wp-content/uploads/january-2024-newsletter.pdf)

FINALLY ✓ as always, should you have any questions, comments, ideas or thoughts you would like to share please reach out to us at info@dextertownship.org or the individual Trustee email addresses.

If you wish to unsubscribe to our ~in the loopΔemail updates, simply email ~unsubscribeΔto this email. We hope you stay ~in the loopΔ but it is an option to you.