

Dexter Township
“in the loop”
March 2023

Tuesday, March 21st – a public budget meeting was held (prior to the Board of Trustee monthly meeting) to review and discuss budget numbers put forth. The Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget with a significant operating surplus and \$775K devoted to capital improvements including local road improvements. Majority of staff received a 6% salary increase, noting that inflation in our area for December 2021 – December 2022 was 6.1%. The operating budget also includes roof replacement on townhall and revitalizing the interior paint, along with community projects like clean-up days, and land preservation funded by the new Farmland Open Space millage. Please stay tuned next month, we will provide a greater breakdown on all the budget numbers.

During the Board of Trustee meeting, March 21st – below are a few of highlights:

- Master plan update from our Director of Planning and Zoning: A draft of the Dexter Township Master Plan is complete! Dexter Township is in the middle of the Master Planning Process. “A Master Plan is a document and policy guide designed to help communities create a vision of what they want to look like in the future. Master Plans help guide communities in their decisions on land use development and preservation.” (<https://www.planningmi.org/introduction-mp>). The Planning department will be reviewing the draft and distributing the draft to the Planning Commission the first week of April 2023. The Planning Commission will then begin and comment on the draft in April and will hold three (3) Planning Commission meetings, (April, May, June) After that, the Township will hold multiple public meetings to hear comments on the Master Plan draft: We hope to have a table at Dexter Daze for you to see the draft plan for yourself. Other dates and times have yet to be determined. Please visit the website for meeting updates.
- A new development called Nature’s Preserve, had their Development Agreement and Private Road Maintenance Agreements approved this month with a few footnotes. The Board asked that potential buyers be made fully aware that they will have a private road and all road maintenance falls to their responsibility and that due to the location of the development, Dexter Township or Multi Lake Water & Sewer Authority will not be held liable for any odor mitigation in the future. Both requests were given a “voice” approval by the developer, the Township attorney will add to the development agreement. The development is roughly 40 acres with an Open Space Community plan of about 24 acres. 20 home parcels are planned with a private road of approximately 5 acres. Approval of this development began in early 2020 and was postponed due to COVID and other financial considerations. The development runs off North Territorial adjacent to the Multi Lakes Water and Sewer Authority property. Final site plans for the development is consistent with the purposes and objectives of

the Township Zoning Ordinance and will be developed in multiple phases. Additionally, these new homes will connect to the Multi Lakes Water and Sewer Authority.

- Dexter Township Fee Schedules (effective March 31, 2023) were slightly updated in two categories: Zoning Permits Major and Minor. Major permit fees were raised from \$80 to \$85 and Minor zoning permits were raised from \$40 to \$45. A complete list of all fees maybe obtained on the DexterTownship.org website or by calling the township offices.
- In late February and early March Dexter Township residents were hit hard with the power outages by DTE. Trustee Scott drafted a letter to DTE on behalf of the Township Board seeking answers to questions such as:
 - In the past 10 years, what efforts have been taken specifically to address multi-day power outages in Dexter Township?
 - In the tow most recent outages why were residents not able to et accurate restoration estimates from DTE app of by calling customer service?
 - When we the first crew dispatched to our area after the ice storm that occurred on Wednesday, February 22?
 - DTE offered a \$35 credit for those without power longer than 96 hours. How was that amount determined?
 - What is the total amount of disclosed and undisclosed political spending DTE has spent in the past decade?
 - How many rate increases has DTE requested in the past 10 years?
 - What amount of profit did DTE report to shareholders in 2022?

DTE representatives have been invited to our April Board of Trustees meeting.

- As always, we are seeking a volunteer or two to assist with emptying the film bin in the townhall parking lot and transporting the materials to Chelsea High School, door #4. This would occur 1 time per week on an assigned day and takes about 1 ½ hours to complete. As a volunteer you may be a backup person in case of illness or vacation. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Another short footnote: residents who drop off their film into the bin: could you please stuff multiple bags into one and tie it closed. This would prove very helpful to volunteers. And as always, please do not leave any materials outside of the bins. Please send an email to info@dextertownship.org if you have any interest in volunteering. THANK YOU
- Finally, at the end of the Board of Trustees meeting – Supervisor Radkovich submitted and read her resignation letter that she had emailed to all Trustees and the Township Attorney a few days earlier:

Date: 3/20023

To: The Dexter Township Community and the Dexter Township Board of Trustees

From: Diane Ratkovich Dexter Township Supervisor

To The Board and the Community,

This letter is to inform you that I have decided to step down from my elected position as Dexter Township Supervisor as of May 12, 2023. It was a hard decision and I want to thank you for the faith that you have had in me since November 2020.

The demand on our Township has grown exponentially and its rural character is being threatened. We must learn to coexist with growth while we protect our quality of life. The Supervisor position is a highly responsible and critical position that directly impacts the future of Dexter

Township. To truly fulfill this role responding to the current day issues and to protect our resources for the future is no small task.

I have served Dexter Township diligently and as the demands of the position grow, it has put a significant strain on my personal finances. This position is currently considered a part time role and the salary is still based accordingly, while the realities of the job demand more. With all this

in mind, do not want my personal limitations to result in Dexter Township being underserved on critical projects that so dearly impact our community.

My hope is that a new Supervisor will be able to serve Dexter Township without personal financial pressure, allowing them to dedicate the full time attention that is needed to run our township.

I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Diane Ratkovich

Brief comments were shared, understanding Supervisor Ratkovich's position, and thanking her for her time, efforts and energy put forth over the last two years plus. A special meeting is being scheduled (April 3rd at 6:30pm) to address this issue and how the Board moves forward.

- Next month we will share budget numbers on revenue and expenditures for the upcoming year budget (April, 2023 – March, 2024)
- As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any elected official at their individual email addresses or this email address. Emails will be forwarded to the proper person for obtaining an answer.

Supervisor Diane Radkovich
Treasurer Maris Metz

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