

## Summer 2023

Summer 2023:  
Volume 1, Issue 2



# DEXTER TOWNSHIP

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Office Hours:  
Monday – Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Township Board  
Supervisor Karen Sikkenga  
Clerk Michelle Stamboulellis  
Treasurer Maris Metz  
Trustee Karen Nolte  
Trustee Lonnie Scott  
Trustee Laura Sanders

### Inside this issue:

Financial Update	1
Farmland and Open Space	2
Multi Lake Water & Sewer Authority	2
Fire Department	2
Introducing New Township Supervisor	3
Chelsea High School Film Project	3
Dates to Remember	3
PFAS Information	4
Local Road—see insert	

With the Treasurer's changes in investment strategies—interest revenue has grown 34%

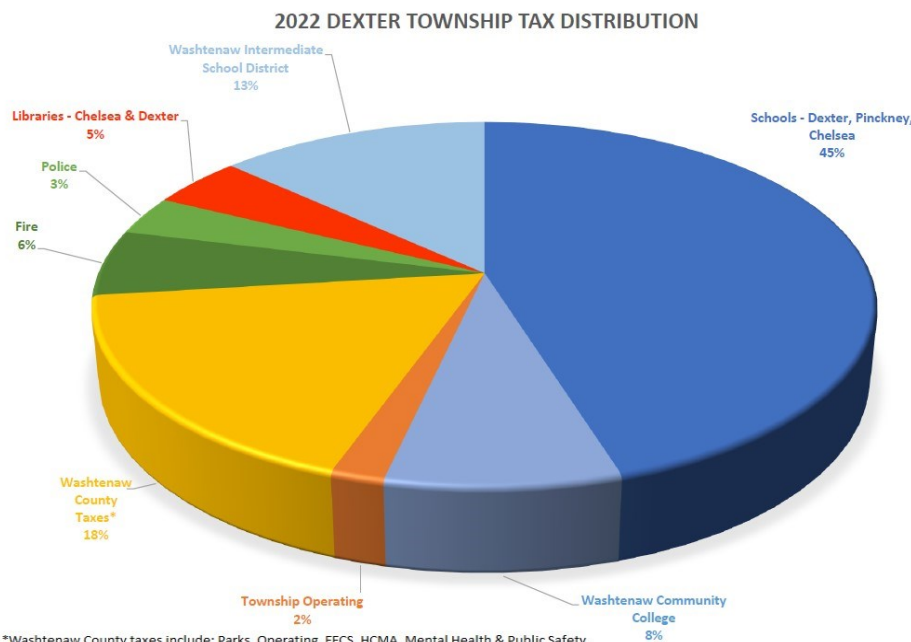
2021-2022 = \$15,740  
2022-2023 = \$46,287

Remainder of investment changes will be completed this year

## Financial Report of Dexter Township

- Dexter Township ended FY 2022 with \$4.2M in General Fund balances, of which just under \$2M is set aside for emergency and operating reserves, and \$2.3M is available for one-time strategic purposes. General Fund balances have increased every year for the past four years.
- With respect to revenues, all major sources have increased over the past several years. Property tax revenues are higher because of new development, and because property taxes on individual parcels typically increase when properties change hands. Sales tax revenues received from the State of Michigan is a major source of revenue for the Township; this revenue has grown faster than inflation some years. Township Interest revenues has grown because the Township is investing its fund balances in higher yield investments. In FY23, we also sold a rental house, which yielded approximately \$285K.
- With respect to expenses, last year, we made capital investments to improve our local roads, and to improve the Multi Lakes Water and Sewer District's infrastructure. We also invested in technology and security improvements for elections, and we invested in updating our master plan (a project which is still underway). In most budget line items, our actual expenses were equal to or less than the amount budgeted. Any expenditures above budget were offset by savings in other lines.

↓Where did your tax dollars go? ↓



\*Please note—the township only receives approx. 2% of property tax revenue toward our operating budget

Should you have any questions, or wish to obtain a financial report, please email [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) or [clerk@dextertownship.org](mailto:clerk@dextertownship.org).

## Farmland and Open Space Update

Dexter Township's land preservation program is off to a running start! The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board (FOSPB) has met five times and is quickly gaining knowledge and confidence. Mark Teicher was elected as chair with Scott Joling vice chair. The following are highlights from our early endeavors.

- 1) Dexter Township's dedicated land preservation millage--passed by voters last November with 63% support-- generated about \$230,000 in the first collection. Coupled with the \$300,000 of general fund "seed money" committed by the Board of Trustees provides the farmland board with the means to pursue matching funds from other sources for permanently conserving high quality farmland and natural areas in our community.
- 2) Dexter Township's first project is purchasing a conservation easement on 70 acres of woods, wetlands, and farm fields on the east side of the Washtenaw County West Lake Preserve from the Monier-Van Gorder family. Conservation easements are permanent deed restrictions that permit certain uses (farming, woodlot management, hunting, etc.) while preventing others (residential development, gravel mines, clearcutting, impacting wetlands, etc.). Funding support has been committed from federal, State and county sources so that the township's share of the \$544,000 appraised value purchase price is a mere 5.5%. We are looking to close the easement purchase by the end of July.
- 3) Letters and applications were sent to 85 landowners identified as having important farmland and open space properties in February. A press release was also sent to local outlets and an article appeared in the Sun Times News. Four new applications have been received, all for intriguing properties.
- 4) Five properties were submitted for grant awards to the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), from which we received a grant award for the Monier property, Awards will be announced later this Summer.



## Multi Lake Water & Sewer Authority (MLWSA)

MLWSA continues to work with the township Board to deploy American Rescue Plan Funds to improve and secure sewer service to our residents:

- Replacing/repairing the pump at the Halfmoon Station has been completed
  - Replacing the pump at the Silver Lake station is in the quoting phase.
  - Replacing and improving the pump at Copper Meadows is in the design and quoting phase.
- Overall, these 3 projects

will be in excess of an \$150,000 investment in capital expenses for the Dexter Twp community.

There will be a rate increase in the quarterly fees for MLWSA. MLWSA was able to limit this year's rate increase to 4% even though national averages of inflation exceed 6%. Taking effect in April 2023 with the following \$220 quarterly budget breakdowns:

- \$33.25 toward debt relief
- \$14.00 toward capital improvements

- \$172.75 toward O/M (Operating and Maintenance)

PFAS is a growing topic within the sewer and water community. EGLE, DHHS, and the State are exploring more testing and creating an action plan if high level detection is found. Stay tuned for more information!

### Want to Test your Well Water?

EGLE Drinking Water Lab in Lansing, MI offers an 18-analyte test kit. Kits can be ordered by calling 517-335-8184. EGLE cannot make recommendations on your testing, please contact the County Health Dept. for recommendations on testing based on your location and environment, and ask to speak with the Registered Sanitation person. Then follow up with EGLE, depending on the requested tests—fees can run from \$16-\$290. If you want a complete schedule, please send an email request to [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org).

## Dexter Township Upgrades Fire Department Equipment



At the April 18th Board meeting the Board of Trustees approved purchasing a UTV vehicle along with a trailer for transporting for our Fire Department. This new vehicle gives the fire department the ability to transport patients and carry fire suppression equipment. The vehicle can respond onto the local trail system and quickly load on and off the trailer for rapid response to our residents.

## Meet your new Township Staff

**Karen Sikkenga is our new Supervisor**  
**Samantha Edwards is our new Office Manager**  
When you're at the Township Hall be sure to say hello!

**A few words from our new Supervisor:** I'd like the community to know that Dexter Township is served by an outstanding Board of Trustees, which has accomplished a tremendous amount in just 2.5 years in office. We've invested substantially in local road improvements, initiated farmland and open space preservation, improved our investment practices, and return on investment, initiated a professional master plan, increased our community engagement through clean-up days, coffee hours, a new website, and newsletters (virtual and paper), and much more.  
We've been able to accomplish all this because every member of our board is community-minded, actively engaged, and eager to put time and effort into improving lives in Dexter Township. I have been serving elected officials throughout most of my career, and I'm proud to be a member of one of the most active and community-minded boards I've seen. My own expertise is exactly suited to the responsibilities of Supervisor: I have deep expertise and education in budget and policy, and also in day-to-day operations for local government. Dexter Township is fortunate enough in having robust fund balances and an ongoing operational surplus (excluding capital services). I am excited by the opportunity to serve our community and use my skills and experience to further our board's great work on behalf of

townships residents. I would like to encourage township residents to contact me at [supervisor@dextertownship.org](mailto:supervisor@dextertownship.org) if they have any thoughts or suggestions, and also to enroll in our eNewsletter by emailing



KAREN (RIGHT) BEING SWORN INTO OFFICE BY OUR CLERK, MICHELLE

## Elections

Want to learn more about elections? We will be hosting a Coffee Chat on Sunday, September 23, 2023 at 11:00 am to talk about some new changes to the election process, including information on Prop. 2. Please join us!



## Styrofoam Recycling



Dexter Township Hall does NOT accept Styrofoam recycling. If left in the parking lot it will be put into the dumpster. If you wish to recycle your Styrofoam you can take it to Dexter Mill in Dexter, MI Sundays from noon-2:00.

## Chelsea High School Film Project

This little orange bin and YOU helped earn Chelsea High School \$2,500 and third place in the national TREK film recycling contest. Chelsea High collected and recycled 21 thousand pounds. We would like to assist CHS in their efforts and goal of reaching #1—what can you do to help?



- Drop your plastic in the orange bin (please help volunteers and stuff your bags inside another bag)
- Volunteer with Dexter Township to help empty the bin and take materials to CHS—contact [knolte@dextertownship.org](mailto:knolte@dextertownship.org) for volunteer information.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

### July 2023

Resume work on Cemetery Project

### August 19

Outdoor Movie Night

### September 23 at 11:00 am

Coffee Chat—Elections, Elections, Elections! Learn more information on important election processes

### October 14

**\*\*CLEAN UP DAY\*\***

Saturday 9am—noon

shredding, electronic waste, scrap metal, Styrofoam and tire collection will be offered

### December 2023

Open House & Volunteer Appreciation TBD

## PFAS Information

### **WHAT ARE PFAS?**

PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl) are a diverse group of thousands of chemicals used in hundreds of types of products. PFAS in the environment can enter the food supply through plants and animals grown, raised, or processed in contaminated areas.

### **HEALTH IMPACTS:**

- Negative reproductive effects
- Developmental delays in children
- Increased risk of some cancers
- Reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections
- Reduced vaccine response
- Interference with the body's natural hormones.
- Increased cholesterol levels and/ or risk of obesity.

### **TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR**

#### **HEALTH:**

- Avoid takeout food packaging (e.g., microwave, popcorn bags, fast-food wrappers)
- Avoid stain-resistant treatments
- Select furniture and carpets that aren't marked as "stain-resistant".
- Avoid clothing that was treated for water/stain resistance
- Avoid use of non-stick cookware
- Avoid PFAS containing health and beauty products such as dental floss, cosmetics, SPF, shampoo, etc.

### **WHAT IS MULTI LAKE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

**(MLWSA) DOING ABOUT IT?**  
To ensure the health and safety of our

residents, MLWSA is asking the State of Michigan to fund any required testing of drinking water wells and/or wastewater for PFAS or to go after the source.

Learn more about PFAS here:

[Michigan PFAS Action Response Team \(MPART\)](#)



**Want to stay “in the loop” as to what’s happening in Dexter Township?**

Subscribe to our monthly email updates - “in the loop” on our website [www.dextertownship.org](http://www.dextertownship.org) (bottom of front page).  
Simply enroll by sending your name, email address, and phone number to [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) . Please join us!



## **DEXTER TOWNSHIP**

6880 DEXTER-PINCKNEY ROAD  
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Interested in serving your community?  
We have various open board positions!  
Send your name to  
[info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) or  
[supervisor@dextertownship.org](mailto:supervisor@dextertownship.org).