

Wilson Township News

Board of Trustees

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Township Website:
www.wilsontownship.org

Township Meeting Schedule:

Planning Commission
meets at 6:00 PM the 1st
Wednesday of the month

Board of Trustees meets
at 6:00 PM the 2nd
Wednesday of the month

Zoning Board of Appeals
meets at 7:00 PM the 3rd
Wednesday of the month
(meets if an appeal is
requested)

Road Improvement Costs on the Rise

In 2007, Wilson Township had a 1 mill road millage that generated \$56,000. In 2007 road costs were:

Brining 23.3 miles of gravel roads (4 times)	\$18,300
1 mile of Afton stone on Healey and Barber Road	\$31,000
1 mile of *Wedge and Overlay on West Behling Road	\$120,000
Total Road Improvement Costs in 2007	\$169,300

In 2017, Wilson Township still had a 1 mill road millage that generated \$67,600. Road costs using the 2007 Afton stone and edge and overlay scenario in 2017 would have been:

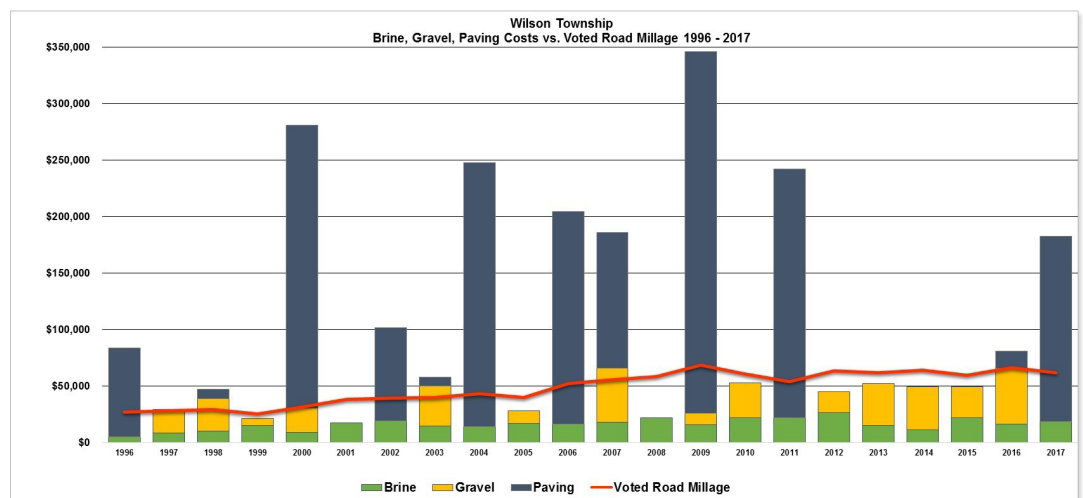
Brining 23.3 miles of gravel roads (4 times)	\$25,300 (actual 2017 cost)
**1 mile Afton stone	\$54,000
**1 mile *Wedge and Overlay	\$185,000
Projected Total Road Improvement Costs	\$264,300

Basically, in 10 years the cost for road improvements in Wilson Township increased by \$95,000, or 56%. While during the same period, the road millage income rose by only \$11,600 or 21%.

This year Wilson Township has contracted to place Afton stone on 2 miles of Wilson Road, for a total cost of \$108,000. Because road costs have increased substantially in the past 10 years, the Wilson Township Board of Trustees is considering asking for an increase from the current 1 mill for road improvements to 2 mills.

* Removing asphalt shoulders of a paved road, replacing them with asphalt then placing a 2" layer of asphalt over the entire road.

** Costs were provided by Jim Vanek, Charlevoix County Engineer (based on actual 2018 costs)



Charlevoix County Parks Millage Fund

In 2015, voters in Charlevoix County approved the establishment of a Charlevoix County Park Millage Fund. A percentage of fund collections are made available to Charlevoix County cities and townships (by application and committee approval) for park improvements.

In 2015, Wilson Township received \$10,000 that was used toward paving Fall Park's parking lot. And in 2016, the township was awarded another \$10,000 from the fund and an additional \$14,000 from the State of Michigan to complete the paving project and to make the parking lot ADA compliant.

Last year, the township was awarded \$6,400 from the Fund that was used to purchase new picnic tables for Fall Park,

of which several were ADA accessible.

This year, the township was awarded the cost for wind curtains for the Fall Park pavilion, completing the project that was started last year (several wind curtains were purchased and installed to see how they would work). With the intent of continuing to make Fall Park ADA accessible, an additional amount was applied for and awarded to install a concrete sidewalk and a paved pathway across the park bridge to the gazebo, continuing down to a fishing platform on the channel.

The Wilson Township Board would like to thank the Charlevoix County Commissioners for creating the Parks Millage Fund. Without the fund, the improvements to Fall Park would not have been possible.

Join Us on National Wreaths Across America Day

Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 1,400 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad.

In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

We hope you will join us on National Wreaths Across America Day, December 15, 2018 at Knop Cemetery.



Planning Commission — Changes on the M-75 Corridor

Over the past year there have been significant changes along the M-75 corridor in Wilson Township and it appears the area will see additional growth and change in the near future.

In the spring of 2017, the Wilson Township Planning Commission reviewed and approved a special use permit and site plan for Louie's Fresh Market. Located at 1231 M-75, previously the Boyne Rapids Adventure Golf, the project is comprised of a 9,000 square foot grocery store with a gas station. Construction on the project began in the fall of 2016 and opened in May of this year.



In the fall of 2017, the Planning Commission also reviewed and approved a site plan for Northern Escapes located at 1420 M-75, which was the previously C&E Marine. Northern Escapes is a property maintenance company and the approved site plan includes the addition of two new buildings, site drainage improvements and reconfiguration of the driveway.

Save-A-Lot has indicated that they are planning on constructing a new store that will be located at 1158 and 1170 M-75, which was the previous locations of the Challenge Mountain store and Shaggy's Copper Country Skis. After demolition of the existing buildings and site cleanup, it is anticipated that this fall the property owners will submit an application for site plan approval to the Wilson Township Planning Commission for the construction of a new store.

In addition to these changes along the corridor, a number of parcels are current-

ly for sale and additional development is very likely. Given these changes, Wilson Township, in partnership with Boyne City and Boyne Valley Township, discussed possible actions that could be taken to help guide future development to insure a safe and attractive corridor. As Boyne City is a Redevelopment Ready Certified Community, it qualifies for technical assistance provided by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The City contacted the MEDC and inquired about the development of a corridor plan along M-75 that would look at how to best obtain a safe and attractive corridor. The MEDC, recognizing the important partnerships between the municipalities and the value of the corridor has to the City, agreed a corridor plan was a good project. Even though a significant portion of the planning area was outside the City limits, the MEDC committed to completely fund the plan. The planning process for the M-75 Corridor Plan continued through the winter with a formal plan being adopted this spring.

A Notice from the Treasurer

On Line Tax Bill Review and Payment Options can be found by going to the township's website: www.wilsontownship.org. From the top menu bar select Departments and Services, select Treasurer, then click the link "Property Tax Inquiry"; or on the home page on the navigation bar on the left side, select "On-Line Services". After selecting a link, you will be directed to the site www.accessmygov.com where you can create a free account. From here, you can review and print your property tax bills and receipts free of charge from 2005 through the current tax year.

The township has partnered with Point & Pay to offer on-line payment options. Credit card payments will incur a fee of 3% of the total payment; an E-check will incur a \$3.00 flat fee. All fees are collected and retained by Point & Pay.

Treasurer's office hours are Monday through Friday 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM with limited availability Saturday and Sunday. This is a home office and the treasurer respectfully requests that no calls are made after 8:00 PM. Messages and e-mails are returned daily. The office is

closed on major holidays. If you would like to pay taxes in person, please call ahead to make sure the treasurer is available.

Summer taxes are due Friday, Sept. 14 and winter taxes are due Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019. On these two days, the office will be open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM for anyone wishing to pay their taxes in person to avoid paying interest and/or penalty.

Mortgage Escrows: Tax information will be forwarded to your bank per their request.

Receipts are mailed upon request only. To request a receipt, simply make a note on your payment stub. Taxes paid by a mortgage escrow or a title company will automatically generate a receipt to the current owner.

Postmarks are NOT accepted by Wilson Township as an on-time payment. Please be sure to allow time for delivery of your payment.

Address corrections: Please update address changes as soon as possible to

avoid a delay in receiving your tax bill and annual assessment report.

Board of Review (BOR) Corrections: Corrections for the current billing year (July & Dec.) will be made within a week of the Board of Review meeting. Prior year BOR corrections are handled by the Charlevoix County Treasurer's office. Contact the County Treasurer's office for correction date timeline at (231) 547-7202.

If you have questions regarding Assessing or Board of Review, please contact the township's assessor Todd Sorenson by phone: (231) 582-7122, or e-mail: tbsorenson@gmail.com.

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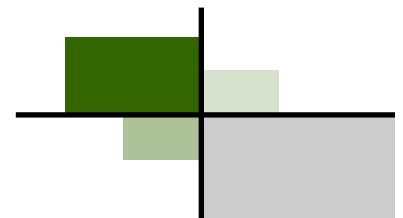
Board of Review

The July BOR will meet on July 17, 2018 at the township hall at 5:00 PM. The December BOR will meet at the same place and time on December 11, 2018. The July and December Boards of Review meet to correct Qualified Errors, and to consider appeals related to the Principal Residence Exemption, Qualified Agricultural Exemption, Taxable Value Uncapping, the Qualified Start-up Business Exemption, the Disabled Veteran's Exemption and the Poverty Exemption.

Is Your Mortgage Escrow Correct?

Many property owners have a mortgage on their property that escrows monthly amounts for property taxes and insurance. Most of the time, the escrow amounts are correct and the property owner has minor adjustments to the monthly escrow amounts every year. Sometimes however, the mortgage company makes a mistake and the property owner ends up paying a far higher monthly amount for the escrow than they need to for covering their yearly property taxes and insurance. If you are unsure that your escrow amount is correct, you

should contact your insurance company to confirm what your yearly premium is and then add the two tax bills you have received from the township treasurer. If you have only paid the one tax bill, you can contact the township assessor or treasurer to get an estimate of what your taxes would have been for the entire year.



From the Clerk ~ Are You Ready for the August 7th Primary Election & the November 6th General Election?

What is the difference between a Primary Election and a General Election?

The United States holds two very different kinds of elections: primary and general. A primary election is an election in which registered voters select a candidate that they believe should be a political party's candidate for elected office to run in the general election. They are also used to choose convention delegates and party leaders. Primaries are state-level and local-level elections that take place prior to a general election. Michigan utilizes an open primary system, in which registered voters do not have to be members of a party to vote in that party's primary.

Michigan Voter Information Center: How can you register to vote, obtain an absentee voter ballot, find out where to vote and what type of voting equipment is available at your polling place, learn what candidates and ballot proposals are on the ballot? Contact your local clerk or log on to the Michigan Election and Voter Information Center: www.mi.gov/vote.

Voters can use the Michigan Voter Information Center to:

- Verify your Voter Registration
- View your Sample Ballot for the upcoming election
- Request and Track your Absentee Ballot
- Find your Polling Place
- Contact your Local Election Official
- Find answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Absentee Voting:

Absent voter ballots are available to registered voters for all elections. They provide a convenient method for casting a ballot when a voter is unable to attend the polls on election day.

Who is Eligible for an Absent Voter Ballot?

A registered voter may obtain an absent voter ballot if they are:

- Age 60 years old or older
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- Expecting to be out of town on election day
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.



A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are disabled or voters who are 60 years of age or older.

Requesting an Absent Voter Ballot: Your request for an absent voter ballot must be in writing and can be submitted to your township clerk. Your request must include one of the six statutory reasons stated above and your signature. Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to you must be received by your clerk no later than 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election.

Once your request is received by the local clerk, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record before a ballot is issued. You must be a registered voter to receive an absent voter ballot.

After receiving your absent voter ballot, you have until 8 p.m. on election day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office. Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file. If you received assistance voting the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope. Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to your clerk's office.

If an emergency, such as a sudden illness or family death prevents you from reaching the polls on election day, you may request an emergency absent voter ballot. Requests for an emergency ballot must be submitted after the deadline for regular absent voter ballots has passed but before 4 p.m. on election day. The emergency must have occurred at a time which made it impossible for you to apply for a regular absent voter ballot.

Wilson Township Fall Clean-up—October 13, 2018

As Wilson Township has done for the past 16 years, there will be a fall clean-up the second Saturday in October, which is **October 13, 2018**. The cleanup will be held at Fall Park from 8:00 AM until 12:00 Noon.

Items that will be accepted: 4 tires, household items, construction debris, scrap metal, water heaters, furnaces, large home appliances refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners (you do not need to remove the Freon from the refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners), car batteries.

Items that will not be accepted: Paints, thinners, solvents, liquid waste, waste motor oil, junk autos, stumps, brush, household trash, recyclable items, leaves, grass, concrete, roofing shingles (In the past roofing shingles were accepted, however they will not be accepted this year.)

Hope to see you in October!

