

# Portland Township News

Fall 2018

773 East Grand River

P.O. Box 314

Portland, MI 48875

www.portlandtownship.org

## Our new recycling procedures

Last fall Portland and Danby Townships took on a huge joint venture as we began offering our residents monthly recycling to replace the 24/7 recycling bins that had been located at the Bogue Flats. The venture has been very successful and we are grateful to the patience that our recyclers have shown as we learn how to do this on our own.

The volume of recycled products surprised us. A representative from Granger Waste Management who helped us with the project estimated that we would need two bins each month. As any of you know, if you were there in October 2017, two bins filled up quickly and we had to improvise to accommodate the things that didn't fit inside. We ordered three bins in November, and increased to four after that. For now, four bins seems to be about right.

We had some one-time set up costs (signs, steps, brochures, etc.), and it our monthly expenses have been about the same as they were when we were part of the city recycling program. We realize that once a month is not as convenient as 24/7, but at this point in time, it's the best we can do with our limited resources—manpower and money.

Our records show that an average of 304 households per month have been using the facility; the breakdown is approximately 60% Portland Township/40% Danby Township. Danby Township officials have given notice that they will discontinue the recycling partnership at the end of 2018. Portland Township will continue the program.



## Survey Results

Surveys were distributed with the winter tax bills and the deadline to return the survey was February 15, 2018. A total of 104 surveys were returned. The survey was also available online; no one used the online version.

How concerned are you about the following: (0=no opinion, 1 = not concerned, 2 = somewhat concerned, 3 = very concerned)

- 2.50 Ground water quality
- 1.90 Preservation of rural character
- 1.87 Crime
- 1.84 Conversion of farms into house lots
- 1.80 Enforcement of zoning ordinance
- 1.65 Cost of new housing
- 1.17 Too much commercial development
- 1.17 Lack of recreation facilities

In terms of the township priorities, how important are the following? (0 = no opinion, 1 = not important, 2 = somewhat important, 3 = very important)

- 2.63 Improving roads
- 2.10 Preserving farmlands
- 1.88 Improving police, fire, and emergency medical services

- 1.85 Maintaining rural character
- 1.84 Increasing housing opportunity for seniors
- 1.67 Enforcing zoning rules
- 1.597 Increasing housing opportunity for young families
- 1.48 Adding trails/sidewalks along heavily traveled roads
- 1.32 Developing recreational areas along the Grand River
- 1.27 Improving parks and recreation facilities
- 1.16 Increasing the commercial and industrial tax base
- 1.12 Expanding commercial development
- 1.06 Expanding industrial development

From the following list, please select the two most important reasons you have chosen to live in Portland Township:

- 61 Rural setting
- 31 Good schools
- 28 Good neighborhood
- 26 Safe area
- 21 Farming activity

Thinking about the growth of the township, do you think that Portland Township is growing

- 8 Too quickly
- 75 About right \*
- 5 Too slowly
- 14 No opinion

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## Survey Results (continued)

Please answer the following questions with Y (Yes) , N (No) or O (No opinion):

Y N O

- 42 44 18 Would you willing to pay a higher road millage to see more local investment in Township roads? \*
- 46 51 8 Are you concerned about the impact of large farm machinery on our township roads? \*\*
- 19 69 14 Do you think the Township should allow commercial marijuana growing, processing, and selling facilities?
- 47 45 12 Do you have access to high speed internet access (25 megabits per second or more)?
- 24 50 29 If not, would you be willing to help fund investment via a millage or fees to ensure high speed internet is available to all township residents?
- 46 18 40 Do you feel the junk ordinance is working to clean up the township? \*\*\*
- 14 66 23 Do you want a grass cutting ordinance?
- 27 68 9 Do you use the township website?
- 42 6 53 Do you feel that the Township Board members are easy to contact?

### Other comments:

- \* Lyons Road and David Hwy please
- \* Please reopen Goodwin Bridge
- \* Aren't we already paying more? Roads haven't seemed to improve
- \*\* Milk trucks and sand trucks
- \*\* Millage is unfair tax for roads
- \*\*\*Not on our road

**How long have you lived in the township?** Average 38.2 years

**Do you rent or own?** 100% own

**Would you consider serving on the Planning Commission or ZBA?** 11 said yes

**If you would like to be added to our email list, please provide you email address.** 34 provided emails

Our last survey was done in 2012. Many more people responded to that survey, but overall, the results were the same: The main concerns of our township residents are roads, groundwater quality, and the rural nature of the township. The results of this survey also told us that our residents overwhelmingly do not want medical marijuana facilities, would not be willing to pay millage for high speed internet, and do not want a grass-cutting ordinance in the township.



**If you would be interested in serving on any of our boards or committees, please contact Supervisor Chris Jensen.**

## Cutler Road

We get a lot of questions/concerns about Cutler Road. This road presents some unique challenges. Because it is a boundary road between Portland and Danby Township, the Ionia County Road Commission has determined that Danby Township is responsible for it's upkeep east of the I-96 viaduct. Portland Township takes care of the road on the west side of the viaduct.

The two townships have entered into a one-time agreement to split the costs of road improvements for the eastern portion of Cutler Road in order to make the road better for all of the residents who live there. We are also exploring the possibility of applying limestone instead of gravel to create a surface that is better suited to the heavy traffic the road gets.

The improvements will take place over a 2-3 year period. Discussions and decisions are ongoing and should be finalized soon. Residents are invited to attend Board meetings or can watch the Portland Township website for meeting minutes that will keep you up-to-date on the project.

## Portland Township Board Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 pm

**Supervisor, Chris Jensen**  
portlandtscjensen@gmail.com  
(517) 647-2479

**Clerk, Charlene Keilen**  
porttownship@att.net  
(517) 647-6643

**Treasurer, Leanne Simon**  
twp\_treas@sbcbglobal.net  
(517) 647-2075

**Trustee, Sue Vanlente**  
suevanlente@gmail.com  
(517) 575-8000

**Trustee, Mark Simon**  
mgsimon@wowway.com  
(517) 647-4892

## Planning Commission Meets first Wednesday of March, June, September and December at 7:00 pm

Chair, Cindy Selden  
Secretary, Sue Vanlente  
Hope Partlow  
Tony Dixon  
Ross Schneider  
Marcy Lay  
Evelyn Walkington-Jensen

## Zoning Board of Appeals Annual Organizational Meeting second Wednesday of each January at 6:30 pm. Then as needed.

Kris Bond  
Mark Simon  
Larry Pung  
Marcy Lay  
Vacancy  
Alternate, Eileen Main

## Board of Review Meets in December, March, and July

Chris Jensen  
Cindy Selden  
Nick Sandborn  
Matt Robertson  
Alternate, Vacancy

## Zoning Administrator

Jeanne Vandersloot  
(616) 897-4242  
zoningadmin@msn.com

## Assessprs

Dean and Jason Kohagen  
(989) 383-0306  
jkohagen@bsasoftware.com