

# Portland Township News

Summer 2023

773 East Grand River

P.O. Box 314

Portland, MI 48875

[www.portlandtownship.org](http://www.portlandtownship.org)

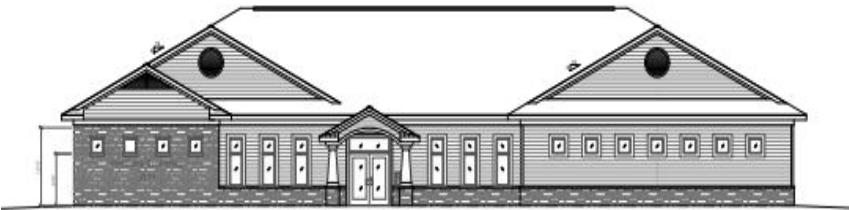
## Township Hall Update

At the March meeting, the Township Board voted unanimously to hire The Spicer Group to design the new Township Hall. The Spicer Group has ten locations around the state of Michigan and will provide design and architectural services, which will help us make the best use of the available space. The company also has grant specialists who will help us identify and pursue any grants for which we qualify.

The new Township Hall will contain office space, record storage space, a meeting room, a small kitchen, and a multipurpose room. The multipurpose room will be used for voting and will also be available for residents to use for private parties and recreation purposes.

Township board members have met several times with David Boersma, AI, NCARB, and anticipate many more meetings in the coming months. Residents are invited to attend Township Board meetings to provide input and ideas. Some special meetings will be scheduled that will specifically focus on the new hall. Watch our website and Facebook pages for notices about those meetings.

A total cost has not yet been determined.



The first conceptual drawing was provided by David Boersma, the Spicer Group.

## How to Look Up Tax Information Online

Did you know you can look up your tax information online at the Ionia County website? This site has all tax information and can provide you with the amount owed on your current bill or the amount that you paid for your summer or winter taxes. You can also look up legal descriptions and detailed information on how your bill was determined.

To take a look go to <https://ioniacounty.org/online-services/> then click on the grey box in the middle of the screen that says "Parcel Information." From there, select how you want to search: by name, address, or parcel number; then type in the information.

If you have trouble finding what you are looking for, try broadening your search by only typing in the street number and name instead of the entire address. For example try: 1234 Grand River instead of: 1234 E Grand River Ave. Or try J Smith instead of John A Smith.

## Recycling Reminders

Portland Township recycling is held on the FOURTH Saturday of each month from 8-5; and the next day (Sunday) from 8-5, or when the bins are full. Upcoming dates are:

- July 22-23
- Aug 26-27
- Sept 23-24
- Oct 28-29
- Nov 25-26
- Dec 23-24

Please remember:

- Rinse all cans and bottles
- Rinse and flatten all milk jugs
- No greasy pizza boxes
- No pop/beer cases/boxes
- Flatten all cardboard boxes
- No plastic bags
- DO NOT throw trash into the bins

Recycling contamination means more reusable materials end up in the landfill.

You can help by recycling right!



Thank you to the Friends of the Red Mill who provide their services at the recycling site most months. Bring your returnable cans/bottles for them when you drop off your recycling.

## Online Payment

Don't forget! You can now pay your taxes online!

### CREDIT CARD



➤ Convenience Fee  
3% (minimum fee \$2.00)

### E-CHECK

➤ Convenience Fee  
\$3.00 Flat Fee

To pay online go to  
[www.portlandtownship.org](http://www.portlandtownship.org)  
and click on ONLINE PAYMENT

# What's Happening in Portland Township?

## Zoning Administrator Retires



Jeanne Vandersloot, Portland Township Zoning Administrator, retired on May 31, 2023. Jeanne had worked for Portland Township for more than 20 years; she came on board when our zoning ordinance was adopted in November 2000. Hundreds of Township residents have worked with Jeanne over the past two decades and can attest to her knowledge and professionalism. She has been a huge asset to the Township.

Jeanne is looking forward to spending more time with her family and traveling. She will remain in touch, to assist the new zoning administrator as he begins his duties.

## New Zoning Administrator Assumes Duties

Effective June 1, 2023, Nicholas Schneider took over as the Zoning Administrator for Portland Township. He has been training with outgoing administrator, Jeanne Vandersloot, for several months. Nic also serves as the Deputy Treasurer for Portland Township. Outside of his Township duties, Nic works in the insurance industry.

If you have zoning questions, you can contact Nic at (616) 755-8527 or [portlandtownzoning@gmail.com](mailto:portlandtownzoning@gmail.com).



## About the Township Roads

It was a wet spring, and our roads showed the stress of all the rain. We received some questions and comments about the road conditions, and would like to offer our answers. First of all, please be aware that by state law, Michigan Townships have no jurisdiction over roads as that is a function of the Road Departments and Road Commissions. However, the Portland Township Board understands how important good roads are to our residents so we actively work with the Ionia County Road Department on various road maintenance/improvement projects.

Our road budget for 2023-24 is \$250,000. Each year, we assess the Township roads to see where we can best spend those budgeted dollars. Each year we apply several thousand yards of gravel and contract for 2-3 brine applications. The price of both gravel and brine increased this year, but we are not decreasing our planned applications. We also ask for the ditches to be cleaned and maintained, as this is what helps the roads last longer. We are in the final stages of the Cutler Road Bridge project, which will include improving the road surface. That project would have been finished three years ago, but was delayed by the Covid pandemic.



The Ionia County Road Department has a website to report Road Problems; it can be found at <http://ioniacountyroads.org/> We are happy to pass on any concerns regarding township roads, but we also encourage residents to use this tool to communicate issues directly to the Road Department

We will continue to post updates on road matters on our Facebook page. We also invite you to attend any of our Board meetings to discuss concerns.

## Portland Township Board Meets 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

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

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

**Treasurer, Shelly Schneider**  
[ptowntreas@gmail.com](mailto:ptowntreas@gmail.com)  
(517) 647-2075

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

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

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

Chair, Ross Schneider  
Vice Chair, Andrew Huhn  
Secretary, Sue Vanlente (Township liaison)  
Tony Dixon  
Marcy Lay  
Evelyn Walkington-Jensen  
Mike Kolp

**Zoning Board of Appeals Annual Organizational Meeting second Wednesday of each January at 6:00 pm, then as needed.**

Chair, Kris Bond  
Vice Chair, Tom Klein  
Secretary, Evelyn Walkington-Jensen  
Mark Simon (Township liaison)  
Theresa Iskra  
Alternate, Tim Kerekes

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

Chris Jensen  
Cindy Selden  
Nick Sandborn  
Matt Robertson  
Alternate, Bill Emelander  
Alternate, Jeremy Norris

**Zoning Administrator**  
Nicholas Schneider  
(616) 755-8527  
[portlandtownzoning@gmail.com](mailto:portlandtownzoning@gmail.com)

**Assessor**  
Jason Kohagen  
(989) 383-0306  
[jkohagen@bsasoftware.com](mailto:jkohagen@bsasoftware.com)

**PAMA Board Representatives**  
Shelly Schneider & Marcy Lay

**PAFA Board Representatives**  
Chris Jensen & Bill Stegenga

**Library Board Representatives**  
Kathy Cook & Robert Weller



@Portland Township MI