

Portland Township News

Summer 2020

773 East Grand River

P.O. Box 314

Portland, MI 48875

www.portlandtownship.org

Welcome New Township Treasurer

On April 1, 2020, Portland Township said goodbye to long-time Treasurer, Leanne Simon and her Deputy Treasurer, Kevin Simon, who retired after many years of service.

The new Township Treasurer is Shelly Schneider and she has appointed her husband, Nic, as her Deputy Treasurer. The Deputy Treasurer assists with day-to-day functions and can fill in for the Treasurer if she is unable to attend a meeting.

Shelly grew up in Cedar Springs, lived in Alabama and Grand Ledge, and finally settled in Portland 5 1/2 years ago. The Schneiders and their three children live on Marsalle Road.

Since moving to Portland Township, Shelly has been very active in the community, working with the DDA and on the Community Center Board. She recently started her own business.

The Township Board voted to keep Leanne on a monthly retainer for six months to help Shelly learn the duties of Treasurer. Shelly will also attend training provided by the Michigan Townships Association and BS&A Software.

Shelly said, "I am very excited to be your new treasurer. Please be patient as I learn all of the ins and outs of the job, especially during these strange times. I will do my best to provide you with the service you deserve. My Deputy Treasurer, Nic Schneider, is also very excited to get to work with everyone and you may get to talk with him as well.

Welcome, Shelly. Everyone looks forward to working with you.



Contact the Treasurer

Phone (same as before): 517-647-2075

Email: ptowntreas@gmail.com

Address: 9770 Marsalle Road
Use drop box at her home to drop off taxes. If you need to speak to Shelley when you pay your taxes, please call her for an appointment.

COVID 19 Presents Challenges to Township

The COVID 19 pandemic had created unusual circumstances throughout the world, and the Township Board, like most other organizations, has had to adjust to the situation on a day-by-day basis.

March is one of the busiest times of the year for Township Boards, as they work on the next year's budget, and hold extra meetings that are required by state law. The first two meetings were scheduled for Thursday, March 19, just a few days after the initial limitations were put on public gatherings.

The furniture at the Township Hall, was rearranged-which allowed Board members to spread out and comply with the social-distancing rules. The Budget meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. that evening, followed by the March Township Board meeting.



At the March 19 Budget Meeting, Board members were careful to observe the recommended six-foot distance from one another.

By the following week, the rules had been tightened, and public meetings were being discouraged. Although many Township Boards throughout the state struggled with logistics, our Board used the online software, Zoom, to hold the Annual Township Meeting, followed by the April Township Board meeting. Supervisor Chris Jensen, Clerk Charlene Keilen, and Trustee Mark Simon were at the Township Hall to fulfill the Open Meetings Act requirements. Treasurer Leanne Simon, Treasurer-Elect Shelly Schneider, and Trustee Sue Vanlente joined from their homes.

Recycling also created confusion and questions. The March event was cancelled due to the seriousness of the governor's executive order to shelter in place, and April recycling was questionable right up until five days before it was scheduled to take place.

The event went on as scheduled, but was done without volunteers on site to help with handling boxes and bags. Thank you for your patience as we all traverse these difficult times.

2020 ELECTION INFORMATION

A reminder from Clerk Charlene Keilen:

- The Primary Election will be held on August 4, 2020. The General Election will be held on November 3, 2020. Both elections will be held at Westwood School Gymnasium from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
- If you would like to vote absentee, please contact the Clerk at (517) 647-6643 or portownship@att.net.
- If you are on the permanent absentee list, your application will be mailed on June 30, 2020.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Have you seen our new Facebook page? We're using it to keep you up-to-date about what's happening in Portland Township. Please take a look, and give us a LIKE and a SHARE!



Portland Township MI



Recycling: What We've Learned

Last fall, four members of the Township Board went on a field trip to Granger Recycling Facility (GRF) on Woods Road in Lansing. It was a Monday morning, the day following the recycling weekend in our township. Board members were asked to be there by 7:30 a.m. so that we could see our load arrive and watch while it was processed.

The truck soon arrived with the bins that had been in Portland since Friday, and as we watched, the contents were dumped onto the floor of the massive building. Soon a skid steer arrived and began pushing the large pile towards a conveyor belt that carried the tons of recycled materials to a baling machine. The items were compressed into large bales and stacked in a section of the warehouse to await a trip to American Waste Material Recovery Center in Traverse City, where the bales would be broken apart and all of the recycling would be sorted into categories.

Our first impression, upon viewing "our" recycled items was, "Wow, our residents are doing a good job of following the instructions that we have given them!"

It was easy to spot some items that shouldn't have been placed in the bins (a laundry basket, a garden hose, lots of plastic bags, and lots of pop/beer boxes), but most of it looked pretty good.



Bales of recycled material await a trip north to the sorting facility in Traverse City.

The Process

- Recycling bins are dropped off in Portland on the 4th Friday of the month and picked up the following Monday.
- Bins are transported to Granger Recycling Facility, 16936 Woods Road, Lansing
- Bins are dumped on the floor and recycled items are pushed onto a conveyor belt and finally crushed into bales.
- Bales are taken to American Waste Material Recycling Center in Traverse City.
- Bales are opened and the recycled items traverse a long system of conveyor belts where most of the sorting is done by high tech machinery. However, workers are stationed along the entire length of the conveyor to pull out items that cannot be recycled.

The End Result

99% of items received at GRF are reused.
90% of the volume falls into the Paper/OCC (Old Corrugated Cardboard) category.

Other categories:

- Office paper
- Mixed paper
- PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)
- Natural plastic
- Color plastic
- Aluminum
- Steel
- Glass

Uses:

- Plastic #4,5,6,7 is shredded into fine particles. The end product is high BTU and is mixed with oil to produce an alternative fuel that has a lower sulphur emission.
- Glass if finely crushed and used in road beds.

The Rules

These are the rules, provided by GRF, that we follow in Portland Township. Other facilities have other rules, but we ask that you please follow these rules when you recycle in Portland Township:

1. Please break down corrugated cardboard boxes, flatten other cardboard, and crush large plastic bottles (milk and detergent jugs). This makes more room in the bins.
2. Rinse out bottles and cans. This makes the entire process more hygienic.
3. Metal lids should be removed from glass jars, because the two items will go into two different areas when sorted.
4. Small plastic caps (water bottles, dish soap, etc.) should be left on the bottles. They are so small that they fall down through the conveyor belts and create problems.
5. Do not throw any kind of plastic bag into the bin. These get tangled in the machines and create breakdowns. There are recycle boxes at Meijer and Walmart where you can drop off plastic bags.
6. Do not recycle any box that is made for the refrigerator or freezer, including pop and beer cartons. These boxes, though they look the same, are actually manufactured differently and they don't break down like regular cardboard.
7. Don't nest items together, even flattened cardboard boxes. Store them that way in your garage to keep it tidy, but when you throw them into the recycling bin, dump the contents out.
8. Even if it is recyclable, don't throw anything larger than a 5-gallon bucket into the bin.
9. No greasy pizza boxes.
10. No hoses, chains, etc. because they tangle in the machines.

Thank you for learning and following these rules.

**Portland Township Board
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Treasurer, Shelly Schneider
Ptowntreas@gmail.com
(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
VACANCY
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
Tom Klein
Alternate, Eileen Main

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

Chris Jensen
Cindy Selden
Nick Sandborn
Matt Robertson
Alternate, Russell Franke
Alternate, Keith Baker

Zoning Administrator

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

Assessors

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