

Portland Township News

Summer 2021

773 East Grand River

P.O. Box 314

Portland, MI 48875

www.portlandtownship.org

Pay Your Taxes Online!

Paying your property taxes is now faster and easier! Residents can choose to pay online through *Point & Pay*, a new service that is debuting with the current tax payments.

Treasurer Michelle Schneider says, "Residents can still pay their taxes by mail or in person, as they have done in the past. But, they also have the option of paying them online by using a credit card or electronic check."

"Our residents have been asking for this service, and many other townships in Michigan already provide it. The City of Portland uses this same software and have given it good reviews," she says. "It fully integrates with the other financial software that we already use."

Michelle notes that there will be a 3% convenience fee for using a credit card, with a \$2 minimum charge, and a flat fee for using an e-check. "An e-check is essentially an electronic payment from your checking account. In order to use an e-check you will need to have the bank's routing number, your checking account number and of course your name as listed on the account." The flat fee will be \$3 for up to a \$10,000 payment and \$10 for a payment of over \$10,000.

Point & Pay can be accessed on the homepage of the Portland Township website (<https://www.portlandtownship.org/>).

In addition, you can also use the Township website to look up your own properties to see what is owed. To access properties that you do not own, you can go to the Ionia County website and select their parcel look up.

Online Payment OPTIONS

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 and click on ONLINE PAYMENT

Contact the Treasurer

Phone: 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 Shelly when you pay your taxes, please call her for an appointment.

Portland Township Board Looking to Build New Township Hall

After more than 30 years of being housed in the Emergency Services Building, the Portland Township Board has begun a search for property that will allow them to build their own Township Hall.

Supervisor Chris Jensen said, "So much has changed in the past decade that we have outgrown our current location."

Clerk Charlene Keilen added, "Our current location for elections at Westwood elementary has worked well for many years but with recent changes to Michigan election law allowing voter registration on election day, it is difficult for me to oversee an election and also be at the Township Hall on the other side of town where my office

is. Having everything in one location would be much more efficient."

In addition, the Township is very short on document storage space and often has to reschedule meetings when two are scheduled for the same evening. Preliminary discussions have raised the possibility of the new hall being available for rental, as well.



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New Township Hall (continued)

A search has begun for vacant land on which a new hall could be built. The land would also allow the Township to move their monthly recycling to the new location.

The Township Board has a short list of criteria for the new property:

1. Minimum of 4 acres
2. Close to town (within 1-2 miles)
3. Paved road

Several parcels have been identified and property owners are being contacted.

If you own land that could be a good location for the new Township Hall, and if you would be willing to discuss a sale, please contact Supervisor Jensen at (517) 647-2479 or portlandtscjensen@gmail.com.

PORTLAND TOWNSHIP HALL QUESTIONNAIRE

To help us assess the needs of our residents, we invite you to fill out this questionnaire.

1. Does the Portland area need more rental space for events?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. Should Portland Township build a hall to host these events?

_____ Yes _____ No

3. What types of events do you foresee the hall being used for?

4. What capacity should the building be designed for?

_____ 100-200 _____ 200-300 _____ 300-400 _____ 400-500 _____ over 500

5. What other activities could the building/property be used for?

6. Additional comments: _____

Drop off/mail the questionnaire with your taxes or mail to Portland Township, P.O. Box 314, Portland, MI 48875. The survey can also be taken online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCL6N7F>. Or scan the QR code at the right to go directly to the online questionnaire.



Portland Township Board Meets 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 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 (township liaison)
Andrew Huhn
Tony Dixon
Ross Schneider
Marcy Lay
Evelyn Walkington-Jensen

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

Kris Bond
Mark Simon (township liaison)
Nic Schneider
Marcy Lay
Tom Klein
Alternate, Vacant

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

PAMA Board Representatives
Theresa Iskra & John Baker

PAFA Board Representatives
Chris Jensen & Bill Stegenta

Library Board Representatives
Kathy Cook & Russell Franke

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@Portland Township MI

