

State of the Township Fiscal Year 2016-2017 March 8, 2017

This is my 13th State of the Township message. I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to my fellow Board members for their dedication, stewardship and willingness to pitch in when needed. We all express our thank you to the Office Staff, members of Commissions and Committees for their diligence and help as they perform their tasks and responsibilities. Thanks to Chief Terry Cluchey along with the Officers and volunteer firefighters of the Pentwater Fire Department for maintaining a professional crew of firefighters who have kept us safe for another year. The Medical First Responders for their fast response to medical emergencies. We are truly blessed that our community is comprised of unselfish citizens who are willing to step up and be counted when the call for help goes out.

I can't say enough for their assistance which makes my job so much easier.

YOUR TOWNSHIP BOARD IS A COHESIVE UNIT BELIEVING THAT ALL BOARD ACTIONS ARE DONE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AND TO A MEMBER BELIEVE THAT OUR FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO YOU THE RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS.

2016-2017 Board Accomplishments

- Started the construction of the Respite area, adjacent to section 20 in the Township Cemetery, as per the Cemetery Master Plan and the Cemetery 2016-2017 CIP.
- Repaved the area in Cemetery between road and Columbarium for handicap accessibility.
- Renewed our recycling contract with Summit Township, Mason County.
- Selected an Engineering firm to conduct a Preliminary Engineering study for Longbridge Rd. Non-Motorized Trail per the 2016-2017 CIP.
- Authorized Hepworth Surveying to survey Old Bass Lake Rd. Right of Way per the 2016-2017 CIP.
- Contracted with Gabridge & Co. to audit the Township Books. We had been with Layton & Richardson auditors as long as I have been Supervisor and we thought a new look at the books was in order.
- Partnered with Summit Township on adding a street light at the intersection of Pere Marquette Hwy and Oceana Dr.

- Adopted a Township purchasing policy.
- Accepted a donation of 17 acres of land adjacent to the Township Cemetery.

GOALS FOR 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR

- Work with the Oceana County Road Commission on improving our deteriorating roads. The Township Road Committee will advise the Board with the priority of roads that need repair.
- Evaluate the communities pulse on the implementation of the proposed Old Bass Lake Road bike/hiking trail.
- Improvement of Lake View DR.
- Completion of the respite area in the Cemetery.
- Evaluate Fleis & VanDenbrink's preliminary engineering study pertaining to the proposed Longbridge Rd non-motorized trail.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR TOWNSHIP BOARD OVER THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

- **Approved Madison Ridge PUD.**
- **Intergovernmental Fire Agreement between the Township and Village.**
- **Improvement to 48th. Ave.**
- **Successful Circuit Court Case on Road End litigation P.B. # 2.**
- **Successful Circuit Court Case on Sewer Rate and Accused Open Meetings Act Violation.**
- **Received a Rating of 199 out of 200 on the State Tax Commission 14-Point Review of our Assessing Department.**
- **Received very High Audit Ratings for the Last 12 Years.**
- **Successfully Warded Off the OFFSHORE WIND FARM DEVELOPERS**

- **Appointed a Township Road Committee that will serve as an Advisory Committee to the Township Board on Road Matters.**
- **Received MDNR Recreation Fund Grant for Fishing Deck.**
- **3.4 Acre Expansion to the Township Cemetery Adding 968 new Burial Lots.**
- **Surveyed Longbridge Rd. for potential pedestrian /bike path.**
- **Set up a new Website www.pentwatertwp.org.**
- **Purchased new software for Cemetery which will provide the ability to update not only our data base but mapping of burial sites with names and will link to our website for genealogy research.**
- **Approved a multi-phase landscape design for the Cemetery expansion area.**
- **Resurfaced Longbridge Rd. and Township portion of Chester Street.**
- **Wedged and seal coated Wayne Rd.**
- **Dedicated the completion of Longbridge Rd. Fishing Deck.**
- **Contracted with Summit Township Mason County for winter time recycle.**
- **Installed 3 DANGER shallow water buoys in 2 areas of Pentwater Lake.**
- **Scanned Township documents to electronic files.**
- **Continued the landscaping in Cemetery expansion by planting 96 trees.**
- **Constructed a scatter garden in Cemetery between blocks 16 & 20.**
- **Paved area in Cemetery between road and columbarium for handicap accessibility.**
- **Started construction of a Respite Area within the Township Cemetery adjacent to section 20.**
- **Received a donation of 17 acres of land adjacent to the Township Cemetery.**

- **Partnered with Summit Township Mason County with installation of street light at Pere Marquette Hwy and Oceana Dr.**

As you can tell your Township Board has been very active on your behalf keeping our Township the BEST PLACE TO CALL HOME!!!!

Charles F. Smith, Supervisor Pentwater Township