

Jonesfield Township Summer Newsletter

Jonesfield.com

217 Eddy Street

Merrill, Michigan 48637

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TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

The community in which you live is organized under a township form of government. The administration is placed in the hands of the township board, comprised of the supervisor, clerk, treasurer and two trustees which you elect to office. Both Justin Buckley, appointed trustee and Marcia Stanley, appointed clerk names will appear on the August 7 primary and November 6 general election ballots to fill out the terms of these two positions.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

The regular monthly meetings are held the third Monday of each month. From November through April the meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. From May through October the meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Come and participate in your township's business. These meetings and any changes are posted on the township office window bulletin board and on Jonesfield.com.

JULY BOARD OF REVIEW

The July Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, July 17th at 11:00 a.m. in the township office. Michigan statute allows review of qualified disabled veterans property tax exemptions and correction of any errors brought to the board's attention. Taxpayers will be heard on a first come first serve basis.

TREASURER INFORMATION

The Treasurer will be collecting taxes in her home according to the following schedule at 540 Doehring Street in Merrill. All dates except September 24th are Mondays. If sending your taxes by mail, please send the bottom portion of your tax bill to the Treasurer and keep the top portion for your records with the date and check number noted on it. When paying by mail send to the Treasurer at P.O. Box 5, Merrill, Michigan 48637.

July	9	1:00-5:00
July	23	1:00-5:00
August	6	1:00-5:00
August	20	1:00-5:00
September	10	1:00-5:00
September	24	9:00-5:00

You can also call for an appointment at 643-5255 if the above date and times are not convenient.

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Qualified persons for tax deferment must remember to fill out the forms every year and return them to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Commission meetings are held on the second Monday of January, April, July and October at 7:00 p.m. at the township office. If you are contemplating a change in the use of your property, consult Dick Bluemer, Chairman of the Planning Commission at 643-5211.

JONESFIELD-LAKEFIELD FIRE PROTECTION

In case of fire, call 911. Burn permits are available by calling 737-4920. There is no cost.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

If you are planning a new building, building modification, plumbing or electrical change a township permit is needed and can be obtained from George Kipfmiller, Township Building Inspector at 860-5958.

Septic and well permits are obtained at the Saginaw County Health Department, 1600 N. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw 758-3830.

VOTING

Jonesfield Township has one precinct for voting and it is at the township hall. Register with Marcia Stanley, Township Clerk at 860-9117.

LIBRARY

Merrill District Library hours are: Monday and Wednesday, 11 to 6; Tuesday and Thursday, 11 to 4:30; closed Friday and Sunday; Saturdays (October to May) 11 to 1.

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

The hall is available to rent for weddings, parties, reunions, etc. For rental information contact Larry Tibbits, Supervisor at 327-8831 or visit Jonesfield.com for rates, rental contract and sample setups.

2018 RECYCLING DATES

January 2, 15, 29	February 12, 26	March 12, 26
April 9, 23	May 7, 21	June 4, 18
July 2, 16, 30	August 13, 27	September 10, 24
October 8, 22	November 5, 19	December 3, 17,31

JONESFIELD.COM

This newsletter and additional information such as meeting agendas and minutes are available by visiting Jonesfield.com or by calling Larry Tibbits, Supervisor at 327-8831.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERVISOR

The township board voted to place a 2.35 road millage proposal on the August 6, 2018 primary ballot. With the closing of the Chapin Road bridge and the township's financial inability to match the 50% cost required for its replacement, it has become clear that more dedicated local road funding is needed for our share of local road projects. The Chapin Road bridge issue is resolved but it can happen again. This millage will generate a net \$77,000 for the Township each year. A rolling 5-year construction plan is being developed so voters will know when their road will be addressed. Across Michigan, local roadway conditions are rated good, fair or poor on a common rating system. Eighty percent of our local township roads are rated poor. For residents in the Village of Merrill who have been paying their own 2.35 mills to the Village for a number of years for Village street improvements, a new agreement between the Township and Village will void the 2.35 Village residents pay to the Village. This will insure that they are not charged twice. Included with this newsletter is a flyer that provides more details on the road millage proposal. Two open houses will be held at the Township Hall on July 25th, one at 4:00 p.m. and the same again at 7:00 p.m. The Township and the Saginaw County Road Commission will present the proposal. Adequate time will be given for your questions so that when you go to the polls you can make an informed decision.

The Chapin Road bridge has received \$200,000 in funding as part of the legislatures budget approval process. Thank you to Senator Ken Horn and his promise to do whatever he could to help the Township get funding for the bridge replacement. The Saginaw County Road Commission (SCRC) had submitted the bridge for federal critical bridge funds with all the letters of support and the petition from the Merrill Wesleyan Church accompanying the application. These letters and a support petition from the Merrill Wesleyan Church congregation were given to Senator Ken Horn during a meeting that Township officials had with him. SCRC placed our bridge as number one priority of the five bridges submitted. But with the Senators intervention, that process is not necessary, and the appropriation funds are immediately available. A schedule for the bridge replacement is being developed. Watch Jonesfield.com for schedule updates.

The Township Planning Commission has developed both large scale Wind and Solar Ordinances, held a public hearing and have recommended approval of the two ordinances by the Township Board. The Planning Commission spent many hours during a number of meetings to make sure both their ordinances were right for the Township. DTE has signed lease agreements with a number of Township land owners that would provide acreage for a limited number of turbines.

The M-46 project is well underway, and completion is expected by November 8. There were significant delays caused by the utility companies not moving their facilities according to schedule. For project updates, go to Jonesfield.com.

Recycling – Have you outgrown your recycling bin? Residents may now use a 45-gallon or smaller can with handles, labeled with a “recyclables only” sticker. Cans not only hold more recyclables than bins, they help prevent blowing litter especially with a hinged cover. You provide the can, we’ll provide the stickers! Contact 989-327-8831 if you need some. Recycling is easier than ever now that you do not have to sort your recyclables - all plastic, metal, glass & paper can go into one container. Just make sure the items are clean.

Each month on Jonesfield.com we address a specific item that either can be or can not be put out for recycling. We also have a link to the Mid-Michigan Waste Authority for a complete list of recyclable items and contact information.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at 989-327-8831. I will do the best I can to help. Also, if you would like to get involved with the township on a commission or committee, let me know that as well.