

Jonesfield Township 2018-2019 Winter Newsletter

Jonesfield.com

217 Eddy Street

Merrill, Michigan 48637

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MILDRED PARKER, TREASURER	643-5255		

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.

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.

REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY

Assessments are completed by March of each year by the Board of Review (BOR). You may appeal your assessment to the BOR at the March meeting(s). Dates and times will be posted in the Saginaw Valley Shopper; on the township office bulletin board; and on Jonesfield.com.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE DROP BOX

For your convenience, a drop box is located just outside the township office door on the east side of the building (Eddy Street) for any items directed to the township.

TREASURER INFORMATION

Winter taxes and unpaid Summer Taxes are now due and payable through the 28th day of February. Summer taxes not previously deferred will be assessed interest and penalty. Checks or money orders can be mailed to the home of the Treasurer at 540 Doehring Street, P.O. Box 5, Merrill. NO CASH PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Please send the bottom portion of your tax bill to the Treasurer and keep the top portion for your records.

The Treasurer will also be collecting taxes on the following dates at her home at 540 Doehring on:

Fridays -		
December	14	1:00-5:00
December	28	9:00-5:00
January	11	1:00-5:00
January	25	1:00-5:00
Thursdays -		
February	14	1:00-5:00
February	28	9:00-5:00

You can also call for an appointment at 643-5255.

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Tax payments after March 1st can no longer be accepted by the Township Treasurer, but must be paid, with penalty to the Saginaw County Treasurer's Office, Governmental Center, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Their Phone Number is 790-5225

<p style="text-align: center;">DOG LICENSES</p> <p>They may be purchased at the Treasurers home through February. Proof of vaccination, signed by a veterinarian is needed showing the vaccination date, it's expiration, breed and identification of dog.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLANNING AND ZONING</p> <p>The Planning Commission meetings will be held on the second Tuesday in 2019 in the months 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JONESFIELD-LAKEFIELD FIRE PROTECTION</p> <p>In case of fire, call 911. Burn permits are available by calling 737-4920. There is no cost.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BUILDING DEPARTMENT</p> <p>If you are planning a new building, modification, plumbing or electrical change a township permit is needed and can be obtained from George Kipfmiller, Township Building Inspector at 860-5958.</p> <p>Septic and well permits can be obtained at the Saginaw County Health Department, 1600 N. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw 758-3830.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">VOTING</p> <p>Jonesfield Township has one precinct for voting and it is at the township hall. Register with Marcia Stanley, Township Clerk at 860-9117.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIBRARY</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL</p> <p>The hall is available to rent for weddings, parties, reunions, etc. For rental information contact Larry Tibbits at 327-8831 or by visiting Jonesfield.com for rates, contract, event calendar and sample setups.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2019 RECYCLING DATES</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>January 14, 28</td> <td>February 11, 25</td> <td>March 11, 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 8, 22</td> <td>May 6, 20</td> <td>June 3, 17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 1, 15, 29</td> <td>August 12, 26</td> <td>September 9, 23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>October 7, 21</td> <td>November 4, 18</td> <td>December 2, 16,30</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">JONESFIELD.COM</p> <p>This newsletter and additional information such as meeting notices, agendas and minutes are available by visiting Jonesfield.com or by calling Larry Tibbits, Supervisor at 327-8831.</p>	January 14, 28	February 11, 25	March 11, 25	April 8, 22	May 6, 20	June 3, 17	July 1, 15, 29	August 12, 26	September 9, 23	October 7, 21	November 4, 18	December 2, 16,30
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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERVISOR

There will be a special election in early May to see if our residents wish to keep the newly amended Wind Energy Ordinance No. 002-2018 to guide future wind turbine installations in Jonesfield Township.

People have asked, why create an amended wind ordinance when we have had a workable wind ordinance since 2004. Your township board felt that it would be in the township's best interest to update the existing wind ordinance to better match successful guiding documents used elsewhere in Michigan. The Planning Commission hired an engineering firm experienced in all aspects of wind farms, held several public meetings and drafted a very good wind ordinance before recommending to the board that we approve their final document. There were a number of changes and compromises during the Planning Commission's work effort, but the majority of members felt it was a good ordinance.

The majority of the township board agreed and on August 20, 2018 adopted the amended wind ordinance. It is more restrictive than the ordinance still being used in Gratiot County, but we believe these increased restrictions in allowable noise, shadow flicker, setbacks and future decommissioning are important to Jonesfield Township.

There are some who believe the Planning Commission should go back to the drawing board and further change the ordinance. Truly, no matter how much more time and money the township would invest in additional public meetings, a new amended ordinance would not make everyone happy. Some argue that wind turbines should not be allowed at all. Michigan zoning law is clear that local jurisdictions cannot prohibit reasonable land use and for the township to do so would create a liability we could ill afford.

Amended Ordinance No. 002-2018 is a good, well thought out wind ordinance that reflects many hours of research and discussion by the township. It incorporates the best provisions from many successful wind ordinances around the state. It is our desire to have a safe, well placed wind farm that will work well for our township property owners. Thousands of acres have tentative leases with DTE and many more residents with small parcels have signed agreements that will provide them with a revenue stream even though their property is too small to have a turbine.

The wind farm revenue projections created by Saginaw Future have been found to be in error in the focus area of additional revenue for Merrill Schools. The laws governing Michigan School Aid financing as enacted in 2007, exempted local school operating and the State Education Tax from industrial personal property, specifically from wind turbines. The school's additional wind farm revenue would then be offset by the State per pupil payment resulting in no net gain.

Since the township will be paying for the special election in May, the board has moved to place a 2.35 mills road millage on the ballot also. Residents want better roads in the township. Last August in the primary election, several ballots did not have any of the proposals marked, including the road proposal. It is assumed that they did not turn their ballot over and vote on any of the many proposals. The May ballot will only have two questions to vote on. If successful, the township will immediately implement the 5-year road preservation program.

The Chapin Road bridge will be replaced in the Spring thanks to the township residents who wrote letters to Senator Ken Horn urging him to find funding, so we could get Chapin Road reopened. The Senator went to work and was able to earmark \$200,000 for the township to move forward with the project.

2019 will mark the final year of the Meridian Road improvement project. The existing pavement was crushed and shaped this fall and is being left to settle this winter. A fresh layer of asphalt will be placed next year. This project was made possible due to a partnership between Jonesfield and Lakefield Townships and Gratiot and Saginaw Counties.

Finally, a note to our faithful township recyclers. As longtime recyclers ourselves, my wife and I often think we know all the trash that does and does not belong in our recycling containers. Yet we continue to learn of items that just do not belong in the recycling stream. It is important that we all do the best we can, since including prohibited items in our recycling bins ends up at the recycling processing center and have to be pulled out by employees or machinery, creating safety hazards and increasing recycling cost. Those increased costs are passed on to us.

The most common non-recyclables found in our recycling containers include plastic bags, Styrofoam, greasy pizza boxes, straws, plastic lids and caps, plastic utensils, plastic and metal hangers and electronics. Sometimes, even bowling balls. Visit www.recyclemotion.org for recycling guidelines or call Mid-Michigan Waste Authority at 781-9555.

If you have any questions or concerns on any topic, I can be reached at 327-8831.