



Hampton Times

Winter 2020

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Terri Close
Supervisor

hamptonsupervisor@hamptonmi.net

Fran DeWyse
Clerk

hamptonclerk@hamptonmi.net

Donna Samyn
Treasurer

hamptontreasurer@hamptonmi.net

TRUSTEES:

Emily Benchley
Barry Kenniston
Steve Wisniewski
Pamela Wright

Hampton Township Offices:

801 W. Center Rd.

Essexville, MI 48732

Telephone: 989-893-7541

Office Hours: Monday — Friday

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 187

Bay City, MI 48707-0187

Board of Trustees meets the second & fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Appeals meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are held in the Boardroom at 801 W. Center Rd.

Visit us at:

www.hamptontownship.org

Facebook page

Hampton Township Administration

Hampton Township Supervisor

Terri Close

Hello Township Residents,

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for re-electing me as your Township Supervisor. I will continue to work very hard and do everything I can to deserve your trust and confidence.



Please join us in congratulating **Pamela Wright, Clerk**, on her decision to retire after working for Hampton Township for 42 years! Pam began her career in 1978 working in the Administration Office and was elected as Clerk in 1995 and has held the clerk position for the last 25 years. Pam is now a newly elected Board of Trustee member and will sit on Planning Commission so she will continue to serve the residents of Hampton Township. Pam plans to spend more time with her children and grandchildren during her retirement. We are very lucky to have her extensive knowledge and expertise as a Board of Trustees member and we wish her all the joy and happiness that retirement can bring.

Also retiring from the Board of Trustees is **Paul Hugo, Trustee**. Paul has been a Trustee for Hampton Township for 21 years. Also leaving the Board of Trustees is **Don Klass**. Don has been a Trustee for 16 years and also served on the Planning Commission. Thank you both for all your years of service to Hampton Township.

Please join us in welcoming our new elected officials who take office at 12:00 p.m. on November 20th.

- ♦ **Frances DeWyse, Clerk**. Fran has been a valued Hampton Township Board of Trustee member since 2016. She brings to her new role as Clerk, 20 years of experience and knowledge from working at The City of Essexville where she was the Treasurer.
- ♦ **Barry Kenniston, Trustee**. Barry has been a Principal with the Essexville—Hampton Public Schools for the past 25 years. His career in education began teaching 4th and 5th grades for 6 years at Verellen Elementary School.
- ♦ **Emily Benchley, Trustee**. Emily is a recent graduate of Garber High School and currently attends Delta College pursuing a degree in education.

To subscribe to “What’s New in the Hamptons News & Updates” please go to www.hamptontownship.org/ and scroll down to **Get Our Newsletter** and click on the “[Click Here to Subscribe](#)”. It is different than this newsletter and is a way for us to send you information, news and updates. You can also visit us on Facebook at Hampton Township Administration.

Assessing

Good News for Veterans!

New State Law does not require an annual filing of Veteran Exemption Applications after this year. The exemptions will stay in place until they are rescinded, which is the responsibility of the Veteran or his family.

Good News for Business Owners!

Once you have filed an exemption form 5076, to exempt your personal property from the tax roll, you do not need to file annually if under \$40,000 Assessed Value. The original exemption stays in place until you rescind it.

December Board of Review

Clerical Errors on your property tax bill can be addressed at the December Board of Review which is on December 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Assessment Change Notices showing the 2021 tentative values will come out in the month of February. These values can be appealed at the March Board of Review with an appointment.

Contact Information:

Ronda Mrock-Parks, Assessor
Phone: (989) 876-7625
Email: asgfirm@charter.net

Donna K. Samyn, Treasurer

Tax Collection Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Drop box is also available.

Tax bills were mailed out November 30, 2020, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Be sure to review them carefully for any corrections that need to be made. **The last day to pay the Winter Tax Bill is Tuesday, February 16, 2021** without any additional penalty or interest. Please review back of tax bill for additional information.

Due to COVID 19 the township is recommending use of the drop box, avoiding additional contact with staff and other customers waiting in line to pay tax bills. Masks are required for entry in the building. Social distancing of six feet is being implemented. Drop box is located on the south side of building, the door to the left of the main entrance, and is checked three times daily.

Please include a phone number on your check. Office staff occasionally find an error on the check and have to reach the resident to correct the problem.

Partial payments are accepted. **Last acceptable postmark date is February 7, 2021.** Dates to remember:

CLOSED: December 24th, December 25th, and December 31st 2020
OPEN: Monday, December 28th 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED: January 1st, January 18th, and February 15th

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 – ALL TAXES ARE DUE

Monday, March 1st, 2021 – Last day to pay taxes at Hampton Twp

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, the Bay County Treasurer will collect delinquent taxes. For correct payment amount, please call (989) 895-4285.

Thank you for re-electing me as your Township Treasurer. Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday. Stay Safe and Healthy. Please wear a face mask when out in public.

Fran DeWyse, Clerk

Thank you for electing me to serve as your Township Clerk. I am following a great, long-serving Clerk and I hope to do a great job as she has done. I want to thank our election staff for all their hard work prior, during and after this November's election. People do not realize how much work goes into preparing, sending, and receiving all the mail-in ballots. We had almost 97% of them returned, which has never happened. Also, our election workers did a fabulous job of making the day go smoothly especially with all the new precautions. They worked hard to have everyone enjoy their voting experience. There were several new poll workers and they did a great job and hopefully learned a lot about the voting process. We had 73% of our eligible voters vote. With the same-day voter registration we had many new first-time voters, which is always great to see.

2021 Closed for Holidays Hampton Township Offices, DPW & Transfer Station

January 1	Friday, New Year's Day
January 18	Monday, MLK Day
February 15	Monday, Presidents' Day
April 2	Friday, Good Friday
May 31	Monday, Memorial Day
July 5	Monday, Independence Day
September 6	Monday, Labor Day
October 11	Monday, Columbus Day
November 11	Thursday, Veterans Day
November 25	Thursday, Thanksgiving
November 26	Friday, Thanksgiving
December 23	Thursday, Christmas Eve
December 24	Friday, Christmas Day
December 31	Friday, New Year's Eve

Other News

Hampton Township PUBLIC SAFETY



FROM THE DESK OF BRYAN BENCHLEY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

I would like to remind residents with the up-coming winter months to adjust your driving habits. Drive more slowly, start to slow down at intersections sooner and give more space between yourself and the vehicle in front of you to allow for stopping distances.

The Public Safety Department was able to get, free to the tax payers, a Polaris MRZR side-by-side utility vehicle through the 1033 program. This vehicle will be used for rescues along our nature trail and bay shore and also will be outfitted with a water tank and pump to help with grass fires.

The Public Safety Department was also able to secure a grant from the USDA for \$50,000 to help purchase a new Pierce Pumper Engine. This Engine will replace an aging 1997 KME Pumper Engine.

With the changing of the seasons this is a perfect time to test your smoke/carbon monoxide alarms and also change out your batteries. With the Christmas season approaching, if you decorate with a live tree, please make sure it is watered regularly and never leave the Christmas tree lights on while you're sleeping or away from your house.

If you see something or someone strange, please don't hesitate to call 911. I've heard a lot of people say they don't want to call 911 because they don't think it's an emergency. It's perfectly fine to call 911 to report strange people or things that are just out of the ordinary. To stay current with emergency situations in our community you can also register to Bay Alerts at <https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/ESHS/BAY-Alerts.aspx>.

Please be safe, and help keep your neighbors safe.

KEEPING HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SAFE

Thank you Hampton Township voters for approving the 2021 renewal of the public safety millage and passing an additional millage that provides funding for police, fire and emergency medical services to Hampton Township.



Welcome to Hampton Township

You may have already heard that Medstar has become the ambulance provider for McLaren Bay Region and the surrounding communities.

We are excited to announce that Medstar will be leasing space from Hampton Township and housing an ambulance at our fire station. They will be responding to calls throughout all of Bay County but their primary area of response will be Hampton Township and the surrounding community.

This partnership is beneficial for both Hampton Township and Medstar and provides a necessary service to our community.

UNLICENSED MOTOR VEHICLES

All unlicensed and inoperable motor vehicles need to be removed from property. This is a violation of our Zoning Ordinance and violators will be cited.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Building, Plumbing, Mechanical & Electrical Permits

Permit costs will be **doubled** if you begin work before obtaining a required permit.

You must call inspectors for a **FINAL INSPECTION** once work is completed.

Department of Public Works News



Snow Plowing



With snow coming, and it becomes difficult for the snow plow drivers to see where the road ends and your yard begins. You may want to put up snow stakes (aka driveway markers) along the edge of your yard.

Hampton Township does not replace mailboxes that are knocked down from the weight and force of snow and ice being plowed. Please inspect your mailbox. Posts that move or have wood damage should be replaced to prevent issues during the winter plowing season.

Sewer Cleaning

Earlier this year, the DPW began cleaning and televising our sewer system. This will enable us to have a Sewer Asset Management Plan completed to inventory and assess our sewer infrastructure.

What is flushable? Human waste and toilet paper.

What is NOT flushable? Anything other than toilet paper can clog the sewer system and cause backups. Do not flush personal hygiene products, contact lenses, dental floss, cooking grease or food, baby wipes/wet wipes/cleaning pads, (even bio-degradable wipes should not be flushed), paper towels, pills, diapers, cigarette butts, etc.

Finn Road Park Trail Extension

A must-see destination in Hampton Township is the newly completed extension to the water trail system located at the north end of Finn Road just past the campground and extends east of the boat launch. This project was made possible with a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant that Tom Foret, then Supervisor, first applied for in 2013 and then again in 2014. Construction began in January, 2017. This trail is a loop that is handicap accessible. There are two boardwalks and an observation tower that looks over the Saginaw Bay. A great place for bird watching.



Common Causes for High Water Usage

An unusually high water bill is most often caused by a leak or change in water use. Some common causes of high water bills include:

- ♦ Water powered back-up systems for sump pumps
- ♦ Leaking toilet, or a toilet that continues to run after being flushed
- ♦ Leaking faucets and valves
- ♦ Leaking washing machine
- ♦ Leaking water heater
- ♦ Water-cooled air conditioners
- ♦ Leaking hose spigots on the outside of your home
- ♦ Furnace humidifiers improperly adjusted or not working correctly
- ♦ A broken water pipe or obvious leak; check the pipes in the basement or crawlspace
- ♦ Leaking sprinkler system
- ♦ Water softener problems – cycles continuously
- ♦ Running the water to avoid freezing water pipes during cold weather



It is a good idea to read your own meter once a month, write it down on a calendar, and compare to your typical usage. This will help identify if your usage is high and catch it early.

Please note the township is not responsible for any of the water or sewer usage that gets billed for the operation of water assisted sump pumps.