

Torch Lake Township News - March 2007

.....
TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP, EASTPORT, MICHIGAN

ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING – MARCH 24th

Township residents and property owners are invited to attend meetings scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 24, 2007 at the Township Hall.

The first of these will be required budget hearings for the FY 2007-2008 General Fund and Liquor Fund budgets, as well as the Fire Fund and Ambulance Fund FY 2007-2008 budgets and the related special assessment district tax levies.

After the budget hearings, the Annual Meeting of the Township's Electors will be held. At this meeting, township electors have the legal authority to act on resolutions establishing elected officials' salaries for FY 2007-2008. Anyone who is qualified to register to vote in the township can vote at the annual meeting. In addition, electors can act to advise the Board members concerning matters of importance to them.

Lastly, the Board of Trustees will conduct a business meeting to finalize budgets for FY 2007-2008 as determined appropriate by its members.

NEW EMS DIRECTOR JOINS THE TOWNSHIP

Eileen Hedin began her duties as Torch Lake Township's new EMS Director in January 2007. She has 14 years of experience as an EMT and, for the past 9 years, has served as the EMS Chief for Elk Rapids



Township. She and her family reside in Milton Township. In her spare time, Eileen enjoys bike riding, reading and sport shooting. She looks forward to working with the EMS crew and residents.

MARCH 2007

BOARD of REVIEW

Torch Lake Township's Board of Review will meet at the following times in the Township Hall to hear appeals of 2007 property assessments and to consider poverty exemption requests :

Monday, March 12, 2007:

9:00 AM to Noon, and
 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

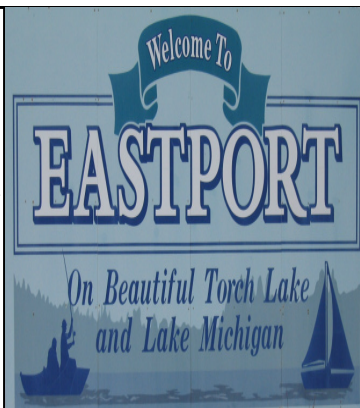
Wednesday, March 14, 2007:

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Friday, March 16, 2007:

9:00 AM to Noon, and
 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Please call (231) 599-2036 to make an appointment. You may e-mail an appeal to bspencer@torchlake.com with your appeal or you may fax it in writing to (231) 599-2981 no later than 9:00 PM on March 14, 2007



Welcome to Eastport!

.....
Reminders:

- Get your trash coupons: 10 for \$20
- The Assessor is in on Fridays
- Zoning Admin. is in on Tues. & Thurs
- Clerk is in Mon., Wed., & Fri. AM
- Call Supervisor for an appointment.
- Clerk has passport applications

IN THIS ISSUE:

CLERK'S CORNER	2
ROAD PLANNING	2
PUBLIC NOTICE	3
CONSTABLE APPOINTED	4

.....

CLERK'S CORNER *From Doris Leech*

Change in polling place for Township residents living in the Central Lake School District -

In the Tuesday, May 8, 2007 school elections, Torch Lake Township residents who also reside in the Central Lake School District will vote in the Torch Lake Township hall, not in Central Lake as they have in the past. Township residents in the Elk Rapids School District will continue to vote in Torch Lake Township. In other words, all of our voting residents will be voting in our own polling place, the Township Hall, for all elections.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLANNING *From George Parker*

If you've missed our Board meetings, articles in a local newspaper and our Township newsletter, you may be unaware of the road improvement program that the Board has approved for 2007. Here's an update for you.

Last summer, two Board members and two citizen volunteers surveyed all ninety-one of the Township's public and private roads. They then prioritized the condition of our thirty-one paved public roads. The Board then obtained cost estimates from the County Road Commission for the "best fix recommendation" for the worst thirteen of the thirty-one paved roads. Total Township cost for all thirteen roads was estimated at \$286,540, reduced to \$238,722 if Milton Township could pay its half of Erickson Road.

Lacking the funds to repair all thirteen roads, the Board agreed to increase the "normal" annual General Fund allocation from \$25,000 to \$36,021, add it to the \$37,247 carried over from the 2006 fiscal year and repair the following nine roads in the 2007 fiscal year:

<u>Road</u>	<u>Improvement to be Made</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Township Cost</u>
Public Dock Road	Add 1½" new asphalt & rebuild shoulders	\$13,529	\$10,120
Thiery Circle	Add 1¾" new asphalt & rebuild shoulder	\$19,836	\$14,740
Servers Drive	Add 1¾" new asphalt & rebuild shoulders	\$30,255	\$23,408
McLachlan Road	Seal cracks with hot mix asphalt		
Creswell Road	“ “ “		
Golden Beach Road	“ “ “		
Bay Colony Road	“ “ “	\$50,000	\$25,000
Fisher Drive	“ “ “		
Baker Street	“ “ “		
Totals		\$113,647.....	\$73,268

It's pretty obvious that even if we were able to repeat the \$36,000 allocation every year we won't be able to keep our roads maintained! In fact, our worst road, Birchview, would require \$107,119 to rebuild in 2007. The next worse road, Erickson road, was estimated at \$95,637. We would cost share Erickson road with Milton Township at \$47,818 each, if Milton could pay its share and we could do it in 2007. These roads will cost even more in subsequent years.

The County Road Commission keeps reducing their "cost share" citing higher road building costs, coupled with reduced funding from the State. The cost of oil driving up the cost of asphalt while at the same time driving down gasoline tax revenues. Is there a solution?? . . . Not an easy one, and not in time for summer 2007.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP, ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

**TO: RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP,
ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Township of Torch Lake will conduct a public hearing at the Township Hall at 5081 N US 31 in Eastport, Michigan on Saturday, March 24, 2007 at 9:00 AM, to consider the proposed Special Assessment Roll prepared by the Township Supervisor pursuant to the direction of the Township Board, concerning the previously created Fire Protection Special Assessment District.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the total amount proposed to be specially assessed in the Fire Protection Special Assessment District and the millage rate proposed are:

TOTAL: \$208,900

MILLAGE RATE: 1.0000

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of the proposed budget and the proposed special assessment roll may be inspected at the office of the Township Clerk at 5081 N US 13 in Eastport, Michigan, on regular business days and may also be inspected at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at the public hearing, the Township Board will review the proposed special assessment roll and any comments or objections thereto which might be made or filed with said Board at or prior to the time of said public hearing, and will consider any revisions, amendments or changes to said proposed special assessment roll and the amount of special assessments to be levied against benefited property. Appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner or party of interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at this hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter received at or before the public hearing, and if such a letter is filed, then the personal appearance of the person protesting is not required.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, if the proposed special assessment roll is confirmed or is modified and confirmed, the Special Assessment will be collected in the same manner as property taxes as provided for by law. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforementioned time and place to submit comments concerning any of the foregoing, or to protest the proposed special assessment roll and/or Special Assessment.

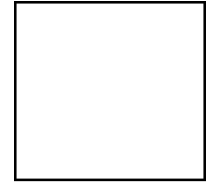
* * * *

Please note that the proposed 2007 millage rate for the Fire Protection Special Assessment District is 1.0000 mill. This represents no change in the millage rate that was in effect during tax year 2006.

Also, please note that Torch Lake Township will provide required auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon receiving seven (7) days advance notice to the Township Clerk. Please contact the Clerk at the following address and/or phone number: Doris Leech, Clerk, Torch Lake Township, PO Box 713, 5081 N US 31, Eastport, MI, 49627; telephone: (231) 599-2036.



TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP,
EASTPORT, MICHIGAN
5081 US 31 N
P.O. BOX 713



Phone: (231) 599-2036
Fax: (231) 599-2981
Website: www.torchlaketownship.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



TOWNSHIP BOARD APPOINTS NEW CONSTABLE

Norm Taube, Torch Lake Township resident for twenty-years, has been appointed to the position of Township Constable, effective March 1, 2007. Norm will complete the remaining portion of the term of his predecessor, Bob Person, a term that will run until the November 2008 election.

Norm has extensive experience in the security and law enforcement fields. He served as a motor-cycle officer, served in traffic enforcement, crowd control and training of new officers, all for the Detroit Police Department prior to his



Constable Norm Taube

retirement. After retiring, Norm served as a private investigator and worked as a security official at the Grand Traverse Resort, Shanty Creek Resort and the Cherry Capital Airport.

Norm's township responsibilities will include liquor control inspections, zoning and township ordinance enforcement, supporting Fire and EMS crews. He'll also help out at the Day Park and Torch Bay Nature Preserve and elsewhere in the township. He can be reached at his home phone (599-3746) or by cell phone (620-2979).

