

Coldwater Township Newsletter

Supervisor Don Rogers donrogers@coldwatertownship.com Clerk Diane Morrison dianemorrison@coldwatertownship.com
Treasurer Mike Sowles treasurer@coldwatertownship.com Trustee Ted Short Trustee Mary Daniels

ROADS

We have received many questions regarding the roads in Coldwater Township. First, Townships have NO responsibilities or legal jurisdiction over the upkeep and maintenance of roads in the State of Michigan. The law (Public Act 51, which governs roads in Michigan) does not allow townships this authority. The Branch County Road Commission Board sets all policies for roads in the townships of Branch County. The State of Michigan gives the road commissions funds to maintain all roads in the townships. These funds are generated, in part, by INCREASED GAS TAX, STATE TAX, INCREASED REGISTRATION FEES and INCREASED DRIVER LICENSE FEES that we all have paid. The Road Commission Board then allocates part of those funds to be used in each Township for local road maintenance. There is currently over **\$265,000** in local road maintenance funds that the Road Commission has in this account for use of maintenance in just Coldwater Township. However, the Road Commission Board has set a policy that before any of these funds will be used, they require our Township pay a matching amount from our General Fund for local road maintenance. Coldwater Township taxpayers pay the township 0.922 mills for Township Operations which equates, on average, to less than \$50 per taxpayer. That would not even cover one snow plowing of your roads let alone paying for any additional upkeep and/or maintenance of our roads. And yet, hundreds of thousands of dollars are being held hostage by the Road Commission unless we pay a match before any road maintenance is performed on the local roads in the township. Our Township Board looks at this policy of the Road Commission Board as “Double Dipping” as all residents have already paid their fair share for roads. Anyone that has questions, comments or concerns should contact the Road Commission office directly at (517) 278-2022.

ELECTION INFORMATION

You can register to vote, change your address, apply for absentee ballots, find ballot information and track your ballot at Michigan Voter Information Center at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/> or contact the Clerk at the Township office.

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

WWW.COLDWATERTOWNSHIP.COM

Visit our website to sign up for email and/or text updates. We will be using these platforms to send notices about upcoming meetings, office information, the recycling center and other Township related news.

RECYCLING INFORMATION

The RECYCLING CENTER is open weekdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm unless the office is closed, or the bins are full. Please make sure that ALL items placed in the bins are clean, nothing bagged, and ALL boxes are broken down. A guide to acceptable items is included.

ZONING ADMINISTRATION Zoning Administrator Robert Hawley

In October of 1974 following the adoption of state planning and zoning laws, Coldwater Township adopted the first zoning ordinance. As a zoned community, we require permits for most work that involves the following: additions (up or out), new buildings, and decks, to name a few. We also require permits for the establishment of certain uses such as new businesses or industries.

Our current zoning permit fees are as follows:

Zoning Fees	
Cost	Use/ Structure Type
\$60.00	Residential Homes & Residential living space additions
\$40.00	All other additions such as but not limited to attached/ detached garage, pools, fences, etc.
\$100.00	General Business and Technology structures
\$150.00	Industrial Structures
50%	Signs fees are equal to 50% of the applicable fee for the use/ structure
50%	Permit extensions are equal to 50% of the original fee and valid for one (1) year.
Note:	
No fee will be charged for changes to site plan prior to the issuance of a permit.	
Minor changes or additions made after a permit is issued may be made at no charge at the discretion of the planning commission and/or the zoning administrator.	
Minor Changes or additions requiring an additional permit may be made if there is a valid site plan, one (1) year for 50% of the original fee.	
The above fees apply to Building Compliance permits and Use Compliance permit.	

Please remember to contact the Coldwater Township Zoning Administrator at za@coldwatertownship.com or call directly **517-462-5976**, to ensure whether your project requires a permit. You may also visit www.coldwatertownship.com/zoning to view our adopted ordinances.

FROM THE TREASURER

As Treasurer of Coldwater Township, it is my duty to collect taxes. The Treasurer does not determine the amount of tax you are assessed, that is the job of the assessor. Coldwater Township collects taxes for the County. The tax roll is given to the Township for collection then after tax season, it is returned to the County. Summer tax collection begins on July 1st. Summer taxes are due September 14th without penalty. Winter tax collection begins December 1st and are due and payable, without penalty, by February 28th. After that, all delinquent taxes are to be paid to the County Treasurer. You will have to contact the County Treasurer for exact tax amounts due which will include interest and penalty. Coldwater Township only levies 0.0092 mills (less than 1 mill) for Township operations. That means that you pay only 92 cents to the Township for every \$1,000.00 of taxable value. Delinquent PERSONAL PROPERTY AND BUILDINGS ON LEASED LAND **MUST** be paid to the township.

RECREATION

PICKLEBALL COURTS! Stop by the Township Hall and check out our Pickleball Facility. We are very proud of this project and are told by the hundreds of players that play here that this excellent facility is one of the FINEST around!

LOW IMPACT EXERCISE AREA. We have installed an outdoor exercise area for low impact workouts located at the Township Hall next to the pickleball courts. This area is completely shaded and has numerous apparatuses for every level of exercise. If you would like to borrow a set of resistance bands, they are available at the Township Office during regular office hours.

TOWNSHIP HALL PLAYGROUND. Also located at the Township Hall is a wonderful children's playground. Playground toys for the very young to the very senior children. There are restrooms at the playground that are available in the spring, summer and fall during the day. There are 3 cabanas with picnic tables and charcoal grills. We also have a pavilion that seats over 100! The pavilion has electric outlets and 2 charcoal grills for any size party. The pavilion is free to rent for Coldwater Township residents. Residents just pay a security deposit which is returned after the rental. The pavilion can be reserved by contacting the Township Office. The Cabanas are on a first come basis.

TOWNSHIP SOCCER PARK. Located at the corner of Marshall Street and State Street is the Township Soccer Park also known as the Creal Soccer Complex. Branch County AYSO Soccer rents the soccer fields to provide one of the best soccer programs in the area. When not in use by the AYSO, the building can be rented for all types of gatherings. The meeting area can accommodate up to 100 people. To rent this building for your special occasion, contact Sherry Fagen crealsoccercomplex@gmail.com

DOG PARK

Check out the Township Dog Park located on M-86. We are very proud of providing this benefit for our furry friends. We would ask that everyone **PLEASE clean up after your dog!** Trash cans are provided as well as Doggie Do-Do bags. The park is divided into two areas, one area for BIG dogs and one for SMALL dogs. We provide water, trees and pavilions located on each side of the dog park.

ASSESSING Assessor Russ Siler, russellsiler@coldwatertownship.com

The 5% increase in Taxable Value for 2023 Summer & Winter Taxes is the result of Michigan Law; Proposal A of 1994. The Coldwater Township Assessor, Russell Siler, will be making physical inspections of all residential properties in Sections 28, 29, 30 & 31 starting as soon as the spring weather allows. Russ will have identification and if no one is home at the time he arrives, he will leave a YELLOW DOOR KNOCKER with the date and time of being at your property. These inspections are a requirement of the Michigan State Tax Commission as basic assessing duties. The State conducts audits of each jurisdiction routinely for compliance. Increases in assessed values are based on current sales. With the current shortage of homes, properties are selling at a historic high, therefore, causing higher than typical increases.



PUBLIC SAFETY

The Township Board is exploring the idea of nighttime police protection in Coldwater Township. We are currently in talks with the Sheriff Department and Coldwater City Police. The Michigan State Police patrol the county at night. The Sheriff Department only has dayshift patrols working the county. The lack of a fulltime Sheriff Department Road Patrol leaves all county residents in a very vulnerable position when it comes to Public Safety. We are hoping for a solution from the County to address this situation.

MEETING DATES AND TIMES

The ***Coldwater Township Board*** meets on the **FIRST MODAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM.** That is subject to change if a holiday falls on that Monday. We will then meet on the following Monday.

The ***Planning Commission*** meets on the **LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:00 PM.**

Please check our website for any meeting date changes.

Coldwater Township Hall, 319 Sprague Road, Coldwater, MI 49036 (517) 279-9388

WWW.COLDWATERTOWNSHIP.COM