



Beaver Island
Michigan

Supervisor's Lens

Notes to Township Board Members from Supervisor Kathleen McNamara

JULY 5, 2018

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 7

SJTGC = St James
Township
Governmental
Center

SJTH= St James
Township Hall



Friday, July 6
@9:00AM @ SJTGC
Special Public Works
Committee Meeting

Wednesday July 11
@ 5:00PM @ SJTH
Regular Board
Meeting

Remember July 11th and August 1st Board Meetings are at BI Transportation Authority Conference Room

Finance:

The monthly finance report and bills for payment will be emailed to board members early next week.

Public Works Committee Meeting Update

The PWC is meeting on Friday, July 6th after which I hope to be able to update the Woollam Proposal Timeline. The committee, along with citizen Fred Walstrom, will discuss recent interaction with Michigan Sea Grant, physical inspection of the Anderson Marina Property, upcoming meeting with Woollam Foundation and potential date for summer public information session.

Firewood Ordinance

For many years, there has been a state-wide ban on transporting firewood from one county to another which also included a ban on bringing firewood to Beaver Island. While the threat to Elm trees, and, potentially other Island tree species hasn't changed, the State will soon lift the ban. The ban has been kept in place to allow time for the townships to consider adopting a local ordinance prohibiting the transportation of firewood to the Island. There was unanimous support of a local firewood ban ordinance to replace the state's mandate at the most recent Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative. I have asked the staff at CAKE (Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) for assistance in drafting a potential ordinance – this is the group that helped draft the phragmites ordinance. I hope to have a draft for review at the July 11th board meeting.

Little Traverse Nature Conservancy Land and Potential Projects

I forwarded board members an email from Caitlin Donnelly, Director of Land Protection LTNC concerning two pieces of property in St James Township. She would like to gauge the township's interest in pursuing ownership and/or management rights to these properties. One is the land containing Mt Pisgah and the other is a large parcel on the north shore. We do not need to decide at the meeting in July, but we should discuss and provide direction as to next steps.

Great Lakes Islands Coalition and 2018 Islands Summit

I have attached minutes of the most recent meeting of this group. Here is a link to the 2018 Summit registration page and a recent article in a Wisconsin news outlet.
[2018 ISLANDS SUMMIT](#) [Wisconsin Article about Great Lakes Islands Collaborative](#)

County Proposed Funding for 911 Equipment Upgrade

I recently attended a County Board of Commissioners meeting where the discussed upgrading 911 communications equipment throughout the three county 911 area. I will provide an update on this at the meeting. The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners will likely put a funding question on the November 2018 ballot.

Use of Township Hall

I have attached to this mailing a copy of facility use documents for Peaine Twp (they are still working on it, not formally adopted) and BI Community School. I would like to have board members take a look at those and let me know what you like, don't like. Then I can draft something for us.

Appointment of Airport Commission Member

Dr. John Martin is interested in serving as a St James Township representative on the BI Airport Commission. I recommend that we appoint him for a term that will end in March 2021.

Full-time Employee Benefits Description

At our June meeting, board members had a first look at the draft benefits description. The Full-time Employee Benefits suggestions related to holidays, leave days and vacation days (for full time employees only) are similar to other local municipalities. I am attaching it again along with some notes I got from Charlevoix Township shortly after our last meeting. Please review the document and be prepared to suggest changes or adoption of the benefits schedule.

Telecommunications Research Group

As all of you board members know, one of our Adopted Board Goals is:

BROADBAND INTERNET – IMPROVE AND PROMOTE ACCESS TO STRONG, REDUNDANT AND AFFORDABLE PHONE AND BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

- *Increase cell phone signal strength and extend coverage*
- *Recruit a local grassroots group that is willing to work together to increase Broadband accessibility*
- *Identify "case study" communities similar to the island that have increased Broadband access*

I had a recent conversation with Bob Anderson, Beaver Island Association President, about formalizing a group which can work on behalf of the island to pursue telecommunications opportunities. I am attaching a letter from BIA that defines past conversations and proposes an Island Telecommunications Advisory Committee. I will put this on the agenda for discussion at our July 11, 2018 meeting. I will speak with Bill Kohls prior to our meeting.

Feel free to stop in or give me a call if you have any questions or want anything added to the agenda.

Kitty

