



Beaver Island  
Michigan

# Supervisor's Lens

Notes to Township Board Members from Supervisor Kathleen McNamara

JULY 5, 2019

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 7

**SJTGC** = St James  
Township  
Governmental  
Center  
**SJTH** = St James  
Township Hall



Tuesday July 2 @  
7:00PM @ SJTH

**Planning  
Commission  
Meeting**



Wednesday July  
10 @ 5:30PM @  
SJTH Rescheduled

**Regular Board  
Meeting**

**St James  
Township  
Board**

## **Finance**

The monthly finance report is included with this board packet. Clerk Gillespie will forward a new Monthly Budget Report that shows adopted budget revenue and expenditure categories compared to what has been received and spent each month; she will email a copy to board members and have a hard copy at the meeting. She will also forward a copy of the bills for payment – please contact her if you have questions about any of the bills. Also attached in this board packet are minutes of the June finance committee meeting.

## **Non-Motorized Paved Trail**

Connie Wojan has asked for a couple of minutes to share with the board what she has learned about maintenance of asphalt trails.

## **Font Lake Drawdown**

Since the board made the decision to move forward on this project the following things have happened: DEQ Authorization has been granted for the Font Lake Drawdown project, engineering plans have been produced, 4 interested contractors have attended a required pre-bid meeting, property owners with land adjoining Font Lake have been notified of potential project, and, a final request for bids has been sent to the 4 contractors. Board members were copied on the note to contractors and the PWC will meet next Wednesday at 2:00 to open the bids and prepare a recommendation for the board. At the Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting, the board will be asked to approve a contractor and work will likely begin shortly after that.

Here is some background information on the project need and process for your information: Because of current high water level (within a couple of inches of all time high in 1980s) and the prediction that the Great Lakes will continue to rise by the end of summer (see link below), St James Township is seeking a permit from the DEQ to draw down the lake level of Font Lake. The decision to proceed in this matter was made at a Special Township Board Meeting on May 30, 2019.

During a site visit on June 9, 2019, the lake level was recorded at 618' and the ordinary high water level is 617'. To mitigate potential damage to the roads and property, we intend to use an existing culvert system to allow water to flow from Font Lake to Lake Michigan. The existing system was put in place by the Charlevoix County Road Commission 30 plus years ago to address road flooding in the same area. The permit request is to draw down the lake level to the ordinary high water level of 617'.

Should the permit be granted by the Department of Environmental Quality, St James Township will hire a contractor for work on the Font Lake Drawdown Project to be completed at the St James Township Property, Font Lake area.

Links to Lake Levels Information:

[Great-Lakes-Water-Levels - Army Corp of Engineers](https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/Water-Level-Forecast/Weekly-Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/)

<https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/Water-Level-Forecast/Weekly-Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/>

Tuesday July 16  
@ 5:00PM @ BI  
Community  
School  
**Telecommunications Advisory  
Committee**



Wednesday July  
17 @ 11:00AM @  
SJTGC **Public  
Works  
Committee**

**PWC**

Thursday July 25  
@ 3:00 @  
Library **Michigan  
& Marijuana  
Webinar**



Monday July 22  
@ 1:00PM @  
SJTGC **Finance  
Committee  
Meeting**



### **Anderson/Woollam Marina Project**

*I will give a brief update about current progress on this project.*

### **Webinar 2 of 6 Michigan and Marijuana: How to Frame A Public Conversation Around Local Marijuana Regulation**

*This webinar was viewed by 3 people at the BI District Library – 2 people from St James Township and 1 from Peaine and one more St James viewer online at another location. Included in this board packet is the power point presentation from the second webinar.*

*Based upon this webinar and information from the Michigan Townships Association, I recommend that St James Township, like many others in the area and state, pass a resolution (attached to email board packet) temporarily opting out of allowing Marihuana Establishments pending the finalization of State Administrative Rules. I further recommend that the township engage the community in discussing what types of Recreational Marihuana Establishments (RME) might be permitted in the township and where they might be located. Types of RMEs to be allowed and regulated by state and local governments are: Grower Class A, B, C; Provisioning Center, Transporter and Processor.*

*I would like to work with the planning commission to schedule a community-wide informational meeting will be held in August 2019 to present information and receive input as part of the decision-making process. It is further expected that the township planning commission will be researching and discussing the issue from now until November when a final opt-in resolution is likely to be considered by the township.*

*I had our website manager post links from our homepage to relevant sources of information on the topic. I am hopeful that the two townships will work together on this issue.*

*The next **Michigan and Marijuana** webinar session is: July 25 3:00- 4:30 PM. The group will meet again at the district library, please join us if you can, session title:*

**To Ban or Not to Ban: Example Michigan Marijuana Local Government Regulations** - This webinar will present various regulatory approaches taken by Michigan local governments to date. Learn about example regulations from large cities to rural townships under the Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act and what some have done in preparation for the implementation of the MRTMA. The webinar will also consider how unzoned townships might address the subject and the division of authority with townships under county zoning.

*Here is a link to summaries of the upcoming sessions whose titles include:*

**Industrial Hemp Regulation, Research and Prospects for Development - August 22**  
**Revenue: From Excise to Property taxes – Who gets what and how much? – September 19**  
**The Latest from LARA on Marijuana Regulation - October 24**  
[/michigan-and-marijuana-a-local-government-webinar-series](#)

### **BIHS Request to Remove Pocket Park and Streetlight**

*I have attached a letter from BIHS asking that these be removed at their expense to facilitate the placement of the new addition which includes the development of an outdoor space.*

### **Reapprove National Floodplain Insurance Program Ordinance**

*At our last board meeting, we voted to table this pending further research and based upon public comment suggesting that the FEMA maps were inaccurate. I am placing this back*

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

**I will be in the office from 9:30 – 3:30 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.**

*on the agenda because I think it is necessary for the board to adopt the ordinance. Adoption of this ordinance does not mean that the township board automatically agrees that every FEMA flood plain map is entirely accurate. The ordinance recognizes that, as of May 16, 2019 the FEMA maps are in effect and are being used by lending institutions to determine the level of risk to homeowners of flooding based upon the maps. The ordinance allows property owners in St James Township to take advantage of FEMA National Floodplain Insurance if their property is deemed to be in the floodplain. This Ordinance was approved at the March 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting, but was not properly published in the newspaper, which is essential for adopted Ordinances. To comply with statutory requirements, the township board must enact the ordinance again. The ordinance must then be published in the local newspaper no more than 30 days after the ordinance was enacted.*

*In response to concerns about map accuracy brought up by Ed Wojan, long-time realtor on the island, a meeting was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the maps and the flood insurance program. In attendance was Ed Wojan, Paul Cole, Kitty McNamara, Bill Kohls, Bill McDonough and Rick Lange. It was my understanding from that meeting, that Ed Wojan would let us know of 3 parcels in each township that are clearly recorded as being in the Special Flood Hazard Area on the FEMA maps when in fact it is believed they should not be. It was the consensus of the group that if we could clearly identify 6 parcels island-wide that we would reach out to state of Michigan National Flood Insurance Program contact Matt requesting he make a visit to the island and considering a more comprehensive objection to the map designations. I will follow up with Ed Wojan before our Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

*There is a procedure for individual property owners to submit a Letter of Map Amendment whereby property owners who believe the SFHA designation should be removed from their structures can submit information showing that the Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG) to the structure (the lowest ground touching the structure, including a basement, attached decks, or a garage) is at or above the Base Flood Elevation.*

*If you want more information about this, here are a couple of links to some great information*

*[State of MI Fema Contact](https://www.michigan.gov/eagle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3684_3725-9380--00.html) or [https://www.michigan.gov/eagle/0,9429,7-135-3313\\_3684\\_3725-9380--00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/eagle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3684_3725-9380--00.html)  
[https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx\\_main.html](https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html)*

#### **Municipal Dock Employee Restructuring 2019**

*I recently heard from current harbor master Mike Collins that “It is unlikely that I will be returning as harbormaster next year and it is my recommendation that we transition Marlene into the position immediately this will be her third year and her performance has been exemplary in all aspects of the job including communication, customer service, working knowledge of boats and line handling, organization of personnel, DNR training and intimate knowledge of the DNR computer system She is already doing the job and I would recommend that we switch job titles and wages Thank you for your consideration”*

*Before next Wednesday’s meeting I will review the budget and the overall staffing schedule for the dock to prepare a recommendation for the board to consider. Mike has been a great harbormaster, and together with assistant harbormaster Marlene Wiser, they have fully implemented the DNR system as well as many other policies and procedures to improve overall operations of the dock. I am confident that the change in job titles fully reflects the actual workload. I only want to make sure that we can swing the change financially as this summer’s staffing was based on a specific staffing scenario.*