

Charter Township of Brighton

Volume V, Issue 9

Summer 2009

Township Addresses Sewer Bond Revenue Shortage

In 1999, the Township was approached to provide sewer collection and treatment to protect the water quality of the lakes. Many septic fields were not operating properly and the residents were concerned about the long term health of the lakes. The Township was also experiencing growth pressure that created concerns about the long term health of the environment. The Township sold bonds and constructed a wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection system to collect and treat the sewage and to provide for future growth along the Old US 23 corridor and other areas where growth seemed logical. Users of the system pay a special assessment and capital charge to pay for the bonds used to construct the wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection system. In addition, the users pay for related operation and maintenance costs. The treatment plant currently operates at 42% of its potential capacity.



The Township's decision to build the wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection system were based on the information available at the time including environmental concerns, design considerations, estimated costs, and projected growth patterns to name a few. Circumstances have changed dramatically since that time. They include the poor economy, projected future growth at a slower pace than originally projected, and

early payoffs which have resulted in a cash flow shortage and a projected deficit to meet the debt obligations. Simply put, there is a gap in sewer revenue to pay for the bonds.

The Township has been working diligently since 2003 to address the projected shortfall. Such actions include direct procurement of supplies, renegotiation of multi-year contracts with no increases, restructuring the bonds, equipment replacement reserves, rate studies, loans from the general fund, and policy changes. Policy changes include instituting payment-over-time agreements, establishing a per REU (residential equivalency unit) charge, tenant occupancy

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Regular Board Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. The meetings are held in the Board Room in the lower level of Township Hall and are broadcast live on Cable Channel 15.

Meeting start time is 7:00 P.M.

SEWER BOND (Continued from Page 1)

permits, and proposed ordinance changes. A complete audit of properties within the service areas is being completed and discussions with neighboring communities are taking place to see if services can be expanded. Additionally, a report is being prepared that will include a financial assessment of the debt, potential scenarios to meet the obligations, and applicable policy changes. The report will be completed in August.

For additional information, please contact Dan Bishop, Manager, at 810-229-0550.

DEER DEMAND OUR ATTENTION

Car-deer crashes are a year-round problem that deserves the attention of the motoring public. Every year in Michigan, car-deer crashes take the lives of drivers or their passengers, cause thousands of serious injuries, and result in millions of dollars in property damage.

The state's 1.1 million-strong deer herd is most active in spring and fall. The average car-deer crash causes about \$2,100 in damage, usually to the front end, often leaving the vehicle undriveable.

What You Can Do

- Stay aware, awake, alert and sober
- Safety belts are your best defense in any collision
- Heed deer crossing and speed limit signs
- Deer frequently travel in groups—if you see one deer, slow down and look for others
- Be especially alert for deer at dawn and dusk
- Don't rely on gimmicks—flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn won't deter the deer



TOWNSHIP TO ACCEPT ON-LINE PAYMENTS

ONLINE PAYMENTS — The Township has entered into an agreement with Official Payments, an online bill payment service. This will enable you to make your tax and utility bill payments by phone or via the internet for a nominal fee. We expect this service to be made available by Summer's end. Official Payments is used by the IRS and many state and local units of government.



Please contact the Treasurer's office at 810-229-0556 for further information.

If a Crash Is Unavoidable

- Don't swerve!
- Brake firmly
- Hold onto the steering wheel
- Stay in your lane
- Bring your vehicle to a controlled stop

TOWNSHIP HIRES NEW MANAGER

Dan Bishop was hired as the Township Manager in April. He started working on a contractual basis in December of 2008. He joins us with 20 years of municipal experience including serving as the manager for the Village of Fowlerville in the early 1990's. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration from Western Michigan University.

At a recent Chamber of Commerce event Dan stated that he believes that "Brighton Township will be the first place to rebound in the State when the economy finally turns. Brighton Township is a great location—30 minutes from everywhere! US 23 and I 96 provide excellent transportation routes, we have a highly educated population, and a high per-household income. These attributes easily translate into a very entrepreneurial environment. The landscape in Brighton Township is beautiful. The hills, lakes, streams, and wetlands add a value that cannot be rated in dollars and sense. It's called quality of life. And we have it."



EAST GRAND RIVER LIGHTING IS INSTALLED

The East Grand River Road reconstruction has been completed including the restoration activities. Decorative light fixtures have been installed along the corridor. The lights have been strategically placed within the township limits. Their placement is part of an overall plan for long-term corridor improvements as outlined in the East Grand River Corridor Plan adopted several years ago. The plan was a collaborative effort between Brighton and Green Oak Charter Townships.

In addition, there is an active steering committee comprised of local businesses and interested persons that is working on garnering an identity for the East Grand River area to be known as the East Grand River District. There is interest in promoting the district and all it has to offer as a gateway to the community.

Take the opportunity to drive down East Grand River and see how much the roadway has been improved!!!

TREASURER'S TIDBITS

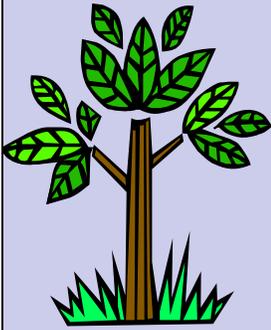
PARTIAL PAYMENTS ACCEPTED — Partial tax payments are allowed for people who prefer to make a partial payment rather than one lump sum payment for their taxes. No additional costs are associated with this option provided the total amount due is paid in full by the due date on the tax bill.

SUMMER DEFERMENT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE — Summer Deferments are available for qualified individuals. This allows delayed payment until the end of the Winter tax season without penalty, after an application is approved. Please contact the Treasurer's office for more details at 810-229-0556.

Charter Township of Brighton

4363 Buno Road
Brighton, MI 48114
Phone: (810) 229.0550
Fax: (810) 229.1778

Yard Waste Clean Up Days



Saturday, October 17, 2009
Saturday, November 14, 2009

Township Hall
4363 Buno Road
8:00 AM—Noon

Questions?

Please call 810-229-0560

WIRELESS LIVINGSTON UPDATE

Wireless Livingston is an initiative of the Regional Cooperation Group (RCG) of Livingston County to create free, high quality internet access throughout Livingston County. While the RCG remains committed to bringing the project to reality, a combination of the challenging economy in Michigan and reports of problems with community wide wireless programs in other major cities has resulted in a delay in implementation.

In response to this, the RCG is considering alternative arrangements to make the project a reality. Additional information and updates can be found at www.co.livingston.mi.us/wirelesslivingston/wirelesslivingston.htm.

Please forward newsletter comments to the editor:
clerk@brightontwp.com

Please be sure to add "newsletter" in the subject line

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*Regular Meeting Days and Times**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1st & 3rd Mondays of every month at 7:00 PM

PLANNING COMMISSION

2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:00 PM

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM

**Meetings are subject to change. Contact the Clerk's office for more information.*

***Phone messages may be left at (810) 229-0550 for all trustees.*