

Charter Township of Brighton

Volume XIX, Issue 23

Summer 2016

NEW WEBSITE UNVEILED!

On April 18th the Township's new website went live! After months of hard work between Township staff and our website consultant, Civic Plus, we are thrilled to present our new and improved website. Civic Plus brought a wealth of experience to the project as they have worked with 1,800 municipalities over the past 15 years. The understanding they have gained with their other clients has led them to develop a website that is organized in a manner that helps residents find pertinent information as quickly as possible. With the increasing number of mobile devices accessing the internet, our new mobile application will provide an excellent user experience whether on your PC or mobile device.

Customize your Web Browsing Experience:

By clicking "Sign In" on the My Dashboard bar at the top of the screen, users may create a login for the site or use their Facebook profile to access My Dashboard. Once logged in, visitors can choose the modules, features and keywords that they'd like to see most often, including calendars, news items and emergency alerts. Site users can also save favorite pages within My Dashboard, encouraging more-frequent visits and making important information even easier to find! Check out My Dashboard and customize your own page at www.brightontwp.com/MyDashboard.

www.brightontwp.com

2016 ELECTION NEWS

August 2, 2016 - State Primary Election - Its purpose is to select partisan candidates for nomination for various national, state, county (Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, Drain Commissioner, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds and County Commissioners), and local offices (Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Board of Trustees) (MCL 168.534, **and** nonpartisan candidate nominations for the offices of Judge of the Court of Appeals, Judge of the Circuit Court, Judge of Probate and for Circuit Court Commissioner as applicable for placement on the November General Election ballot.

There will also be two ballot questions (i.e. millage questions) on this ballot for the Brighton Area Fire Authority Fire Millage Proposal and Livingston County Veterans Services Program Proposal.

You can view your sample ballot by visiting the MI Voter Information Center at www.mi.gov/vote.

November 8, 2016 - The **General Election** ballot will include all partisan nominated candidates, other nationally recognized political party candidates, and local candidates including those with no political party affiliation.

Voters are encouraged to visit our website for additional voter information including how to obtain an Absent Voter application and ballot at <http://brightontwp.com/155/Elections> or you can call the Clerk's office at (810) 229-0560.

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Regular Board Meetings are held at least monthly and are broadcast live on Cable Channel 15. Regular work session meetings are scheduled in conjunction with the adoption of the annual Regular Meeting schedule.

The meetings are held in the lower level of Township Hall. Meeting start time is 7:00 P.M.

PROPERTY VERIFICATION

With the return of the warmer weather, the Assessing Department will continue to update property records. If your property is going to be visited, you will be notified in advance by post card. Staff will be checking exterior measurements, story heights, decks, outbuildings, etc. We will also be verifying interior information with property owners. If you are not home when we visit we will leave a tag on the door requiring information regarding the interior of your home. We will also be updating photographs at the time of the field visit.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions please call the Assessing Department at 810-229-0558.

PLANNING NEWS

Business is booming in Brighton Township!



New projects that have recently been approved include a new business called MI Backyard going into a building located at 8160 W Grand River; Troy Clogg Landscaping is relocating into a previous residence at 5010/5016 Old 23; and Cornerstone Church is constructing a new soccer field at 9455 Hilton Road.

Interested in keeping up with what is going before the Planning Commission? Visit our website at www.brightontwp.com and click on the "Notify Me" button to subscribe to notifications.

SUMMER TAX INFORMATION

Taxes are due September 14, 2016. Please note that postmarks are not accepted.

- ◆ Tax Payments by Check: Brighton Township deposits checks electronically on the same day that payment is made. Please verify all information is correct on your check before mailing and include your phone number on the check. Incomplete checks will be returned to the payer which will delay payment from being posted and could result in late fees. All of these tips will facilitate prompt posting of your payment.
- ◆ Tax Payments by Credit Card: Payments can be made online, in person at Township Hall or by phone. Please refer to the back of your tax bill for further information. A convenience fee is charged by the provider of this service.
- ◆ Bank Online Bill Payment System: Please be aware that the bank cuts a physical check to us. This payment is then sent via mail, usually from out of state. Please allow sufficient time for payment to reach us.

Deferment of Summer Taxes: You may qualify for a deferment of your summer taxes. A deferment allows you to pay summer taxes by February 14, 2017 without penalty. Deferment can only be filed from 7/1/16 - 9/14/16. Deferments must be filed annually. Please refer to the back of your tax bill for specific requirements.

Dog License: The State of Michigan requires the annual licensing of all dogs. You have the option of purchasing a one-year or three-year license. The rabies vaccination must be valid for the entire three-year period in order to purchase a three-year license. Fees are as follows:

Spayed/Neutered one-year \$10.00, three-year \$25.00
 Male/Female one-year \$25.00, three-year \$60.00
 Late Fee \$20.00

The Treasurer's Department may be reached at (810) 229-0556.

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM—UPDATE

On March 3, 2016, the Township hosted a special informational meeting regarding the Sanitary Sewer System. Prior to that meeting the Township Board and Township Utilities Committee had received an increase in the number of questions related to the: design, construction, Special Assessment Districts, bonding, quarterly rates, etc., of the sewer system. The PowerPoint presentation and all of the supporting material from that March 3rd meeting have been uploaded to the Township website (www.brightontwp.com) for those that are interested to review. This information is listed on the Public Utilities page.

The Township Board's recent discussions confirmed that the Sanitary Sewer System was designed in 1999-2000 to accommodate 2,700 residential equivalent units (REU's). The system was sized and built to accommodate five years of future growth which would meet the financial obligation of the construction bonds. Unfortunately, housing construction and growth never materialized to meet those projections. Since the inception of the Sanitary Sewer System it was communicated to the public that the system would be operated as an Enterprise Fund whereby the users of the system, not all taxpayers, would pay for the cost of the system and any financial costs associated with the unrealized growth would be the responsibility of the sewer users.

In light of the fact that the sanitary sewer system was oversized due, at least in part, to policy decisions of the leadership in 1999 – 2000, the current Township Board has taken steps to address the financial burden that the original sewer users are being faced with as a result of that policy decision. This is in addition to numerous actions taken by this and previous Boards to ensure the Sanitary Sewer Fund financial obligations will be met.

The proposal:

As depicted below, the sewer system was designed to accommodate 2,700 REU and the original assessment roll of June 1, 2000 accounted for 1,756* REU's. This created a balance (or oversizing) of 944 REU's. Of the 944 REU's there have been 471** REU's sold between inception and December 31, 2015. The difference, 473 REU, represent the "balance" of the oversizing. The cost of those 473 REU equals \$4,852,980. See Table below.

The proposal calls for the Township's General Fund to purchase the remaining 473 REU's which represents the oversizing balance at a cost of \$4,852,980. As the Township sells REU's to new users of the system, their respective payment, currently \$10,260 per REU, would reimburse the Township General Fund - Fund Balance. The Township General Fund – Fund balance would be fully reimbursed upon the sale of the 473 REU's.

System Design in # of REU		2700
Assessment Roll # of REU * 6/1/2000	-	1756
Township upsize	Difference	944
Purchased since Assessment Roll **	-	471
Upsize balance	Difference	473
Cost per REU	×	\$ 10,260
Township upsize cost		\$ 4,852,980

Additional information can be found on the Township's website at www.brightontwp.com under the Public Utilities tab. If you have additional questions contact the Township Manager at 810-229-0550 or manager@brightontwp.com.

Charter Township of Brighton

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

TOWNSHIP HALL HOURS

Mondays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays, and Fridays 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM *
Tuesdays 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM *

* Closed daily for lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Township offices will be closed on the following days:

Monday July 4, 2016
Monday, September 5, 2016

Visit our website at www.brightontwp.com for additional holiday closings throughout the year.

LARGE ITEM DROP OFF DATE SCHEDULED

Saturday September 17, 2016
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Brighton Township Fire Hall
1580 Old US 23

Frequently accepted large items include washers/dryers, TVs, patio furniture, grills, old computer equipment, bed springs, mattresses, hot water heaters, furniture, toys.

Large items not accepted include liquid waste, car/boat parts, yard waste, construction debris, railroad ties, oil, pesticides, explosives, poisons, hazardous waste, tires, branches, stumps, batteries, paint/solvents, anti-freeze, herbicides, medical waste, sod, rocks, bricks, dirt, concrete and items that contain Freon. Lawn mowers and/or small engines must have the oil and gas removed at the time of drop-off. Proof of residency is required.

Questions? Call the Clerk's office at 810-229-0560.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

www.brightontwp.com

SUPERVISOR

Tom "Murph" Murphy
supervisor@brightontwp.com
(810) 229-0550

CLERK

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clerk@brightontwp.com
(810) 229-0560

TREASURER

Deb Hawk
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Lucille Weaire
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MANAGER

Brian Vick
manager@brightontwp.com
(810) 229-0550

*Regular Meeting Days and Times**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM
as scheduled with the adoption of the annual meeting schedule.

PLANNING COMMISSION

2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM
(January, March, May, July, September, December)

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

4th Wednesday at 7:00 PM
(January, March, May, July, September, November)

**Meetings are subject to change. Contact the Clerk's office at 810-229-0560 for more information.*

***Phone messages may be left at (810) 229-0550*

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

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