

Ann Arbor Township Hall  
3792 Pontiac Trail  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9656

Supervisor Mike Moran  
Clerk Rena Basch  
Treasurer Virginia Forshee  
Board of Trustees:  
John Allison  
Richard Dieterle  
Della DiPietro  
Gene Ragland

Ann Arbor Township  
News is published by  
Ann Arbor Charter  
Township. Please  
contact Editor  
Rena Basch,  
Township Clerk  
with comments or  
suggestions through  
Township Hall.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ANN ARBOR PRINTING  
AND MAILING SERVICE  
ANN ARBOR, MI

## Keep Our Township Beautiful

By Gene Ragland  
Township Board

Ann Arbor Township voters overwhelmingly demonstrated their desire to preserve the natural beauty of farmland and open space by passing a PDR millage by more than a 3 to 1 vote. Unfortunately, a few inconsiderate individuals repeatedly spoil the natural viewscape for all of us when they discard their trash in public places.

Too many of our rural roads and open fields are littered with everything from fast food wrappers to refrigerators and couches.

The Ann Arbor Township Board has amended our Blight Ordinance to make it illegal to dump or permit to be dumped any trash, junk, abandoned vehicles or building material.

Ann Arbor Township has an active and reliable solid waste program through Republic Waste Service. Republic will pick up and dispose of residential waste and yard waste and will recycle glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage cans and appropriately marked plastics. In addition, they will pick up bulky items such as carpet, mattresses and large appliances. All bulky items must be tagged with a "Bulky Item" sticker available for purchase at the Ann Arbor Township Hall for \$10.00 each.

All of us can do our part to properly dispose of trash. Let's preserve the natural beauty of our Township.

# Ann Arbor Township News

WINTER 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Clerk's Report	2
Supervisor's Report	3
Keep Our Township Beautiful	4



ANN ARBOR  
Charter Township

## County Imposes Significant Increase In The Cost of Deputies

By Mike Moran  
Township Supervisor

Most of your property taxes support governmental services outside the Township. Of the 34.48 mills of tax you pay each year, 16% is sent to Washtenaw County to support its operations, and 74% is sent to school districts and the library. Only 3.41 mills of the total levy stays in Ann Arbor Township, and 57% of that amount is dedicated to operating our Fire Department.

About 2.3% of the total levy goes into the general fund to operate the general business of the township. Unlike most townships in the County, we have been able to finance police services from the general fund. However that is changing because of unilateral action taken by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

For many years, the County provided police services to the townships

through the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department using some of the tax revenue we send to the County. The deputies were general deputies and not assigned to police any particular township. As the townships grew, sheriff's coverage did not keep pace and, in 1997, Ann Arbor Township supplemented the general coverage deputies by contracting with the County for a deputy whose time was dedicated to the Township. The cost was \$67,333. In 2000, the Township added another deputy to supplement the general patrol. The total cost was \$146,288.

In 2002, the County announced that it was completely changing its approach to policing by eliminating the general deputies and each township would have to contract for any deputies it wanted. The County advised that if a Township would contract for a level of service deemed necessary to

provide basic coverage, the County would contribute a portion of the cost of those deputies leaving the Township to pay the balance. For Ann Arbor Township, the recommended level of service was four deputies, for which the Township's share was \$313,332 or \$78,333 per deputy. By 2005, that total cost had increased to \$355,540.

Last year, the County again changed course and announced the elimination of any contribution to contract deputies. This followed the voters' overwhelming rejection of a new millage (\$300 million over 30 years) to finance a substantial expansion of the County Jail, a new courthouse and other criminal justice facilities and programs. Following that defeat, the County announced a more modest expansion to be financed by elimination of all of its contribution to the cost of the contract deputies.

Continued on Page 2

## At Your Call

By Fire Chief Rick Ericson

The Ann Arbor Township Fire Department is continually updating its training and recently upgraded its emergency service to Basic Life Support. Basic Life Support is a higher level of medical response that has been achieved by only two other

fire departments in the County. It requires hundreds of hours of specialized training and permits advanced airway support, administration of some life saving medications and pulse oximetry. Our core training curriculum also includes many hours of training in fire suppression, vehicle extrication, technical rescue, hazardous materials and medical first responder.

Each of our two stations is staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week with one full-time firefighter, complemented with on-call firefighters during emergency calls. Besides your chief, the staff is comprised of six full-time and about 24 on-call firefighters.

The department has fire apparatus capable of handling all situations. Included in our fleet are: two fire

Continued on Page 2

### Cost of Deputies Continued

The County also asserted that the full cost of each deputy would increase to \$190,000.

On behalf of Ann Arbor Township, I testified at several meetings of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners that the claimed cost was inflated and unaffordable. As a result, a committee of township, village and county officials and Sheriff's Department representatives was formed to evaluate costs. As a member of the committee, I can report that discussion has been far-ranging, open and productive, resulting in significant progress. It appears that the committee will urge the Board of Commissioners to continue county funding for important police functions that benefit everyone in the county and to provide some level of contribution to

the cost of contract deputies. Even with a recommended price of \$125,000 per deputy including overtime, our current police costs would rise to about \$540,000. That is 72% more than we paid for that same coverage in 2002.

That significant increase in the cost of safeguarding our residents will hit us at the same time that the Township will be impacted by the effect of the Boundary Agreement negotiated with the City of Ann Arbor in 1994 by a previous Township Board. Pursuant to that agreement, the City can annex Township properties within a defined area of the Township, which will erode our tax base.

We are looking at every option to maximize the value of your tax dollars. For example, we have

combined our contract deputies with those in Superior Township and created patrol districts that resulted in better coverage in our township without additional cost. We also are working with other townships to investigate the possibility of a regional fire service that would reduce the duplication of equipment and more effectively provide fire protection.

Despite these efforts, the County Commissioners' actions will result in a significantly increased cost of police protection that our general fund revenues can not cover. Since the millage that funds our Fire Department expires at the end of this year, we will ask for your support later this year for a Public Safety Millage dedicated to both fire and police protection.

For more information on your fire department please visit us at [www.aatfd.org](http://www.aatfd.org).

These locations are:

- 1) Ann Arbor Township Hall/Fire Station #1 at 3792 Pontiac Trail
- 2) Ann Arbor Township Fire Station #2 at 4319 Goss Road
- 3) Barton Hills Village Hall at 215 Barton Shore Drive
- 4) Washtenaw Community College Student Center Building, E. Huron River Drive
- 5) Agri Service Center at 4175 Whitmore Lake Road

Continued on Page 3

### At Your Call Continued

engines, a ladder truck, two rescue vehicles, brush truck, technical rescue vehicle with trailer and a new tanker truck. All are maintained to be ready at a moment's notice.

The fire department is funded by two millages. Both are expiring at the end of this year. The request to renew these millages will be folded into a broader request for a Public Safety millage later this year.

## Clerk's Report

By Rena Basch

Do you wonder what's happening around the Township? There are several ways you can find out:

- **Internet** - Visit our Township website: [www.aatwp.org](http://www.aatwp.org). Here you can find public hearing notices, meeting minutes, contacts and other information. You can also look up assessing and tax information. Later this year, the Township Ordinances also will be available online in a searchable format. I am

continuously trying to improve the site, so feel free to send suggestions.

- **Newspaper** - Announcements for public hearings and ordinance changes can be found in the Ann Arbor News classified section – Section 3510 Public Notices.
- **Public postings on bulletin boards** – The Township uses bulletin boards to post public hearing notices and other information.

- **Meetings on Mondays** – Many Township meetings occur on Monday nights. Planning Commission typically meets the 1st Monday of each month, and Board of Trustees typically meets on the 3rd Monday. Check the website for changes due to holidays.

### Elections Update

The Michigan Legislature passed "Elections Consolidation" laws to reduce the number of local and special elections. Election dates have been limited to four Tuesdays during the year (February, May, August and November). In 2006, there will be elections on May 2, August 8 (Primary) and November 7 (General). Villages and cities may continue to

hold their elections in September; and Barton Village has decided to continue with its traditional September election of their Board. The Elections Consolidation law also stipulates that School Districts no longer conduct School Board elections. Ann Arbor Township voters now always go to their regular precincts for School Board elections.

## Supervisor's Report

By Mike Moran

A lot has happened in our Township during recent times. Our Farmland Preservation activities got off to a blazing start, receiving grants of \$700,000 of Federal Farm and Ranchland Funds and \$730,000 from the City Greenbelt Program. We expect to close on our first agreement with a local farmer soon.

After nearly eight years of negotiations with the City of Ann Arbor, we reached agreement on new water and sewer contracts, securing our capacity for the next twenty years. We commissioned a study of our sewer and water systems and rates to assure that we plan adequately for future maintenance needs. Considering existing reserves, we are phasing in the recommended increase

over ten years, instead of immediately imposing the full recommended amount.

Private wastewater systems have been the focus of much litigation in the state. In response, we have taken the lead in our County to develop an ordinance regulating such systems.

We also adopted the National Incident Management Plan, created a Township Emergency Management Plan, and I completed emergency management training. These actions will qualify us for federal grants.

The businesses that call Ann Arbor Township home continue to invest in expanding their facilities here. Dominos Farms is completing an additional 228,000 square feet of office space, the National Sanitation Foundation is adding 82,000 square

feet of lab space and Toyota is making small additions to its facilities. Earhart Corporate Center is constructing 200,000 of office space. The University of Michigan is expanding its East Medical Campus and Washtenaw County Community College is constructing a Health and Fitness Center. We continue to participate in regional planning efforts.

The Bentley Historic Library at the University of Michigan accepted the donation of many of our oldest records, which will preserve our history and make them available for research. I look forward to continuing to work with our residents, our Township Board and other Township Committees to plan for our future.



### Township Website

Information about the Township, including agendas and minutes for township meetings can be found at the township's website at: [www.aatwp.org](http://www.aatwp.org)