

# Ensley Township

## Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue

February, 2007

### TOWNSHIP BOARD

- Stephen Knox, Supervisor  
231-937-4957
- Cynthia Harwood, Clerk  
231-937-5091
- Faye Folkema, Treasurer  
616-636-8616
- John VanderMeulen, Trustee  
616-636-5814
- JoAnn VandenBerg, Trustee  
616-636-5750

### OTHER POSITIONS

- Bob Hawkins, Fire Chief  
616-636-5256
- Dan Powell, County Commissioner  
231-834-0957
- Gary Butler, Cemetery Sexton  
616-636-5385
- Steve Boluyt, Building Inspector  
616-636-8240
- Pat Huffman, Electrical Inspector  
616-696-7741
- Bob Hall, Zoning Administrator  
616-636-8510
- Jason Rosenzweig, Assessor  
616-636-8510

### MEETING SCHEDULE

February 6, 2007  
March 6, 2007

The Annual Meeting is March 31, 2007. It begins at 10:00 AM.

All regular meetings start at 8:00 PM and are held at the Ensley Township Hall, 7163 E 120th Street, Sand Lake, MI 49343.

### Board Notes

The Township of Ensley gives it's heartfelt sympathy to the family of Mr. Richard Bergman. Mr. Bergman was the supervisor for the past ten years. He succumbed to the effects of cancer on December 3, 2006.

A special meeting was held on December 9 to appoint a new supervisor. Stephen Knox was chosen. He had been serving as trustee for the past two years and also served on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

This left a vacancy in the trustee position. JoAnn VandenBerg was chosen to fill that position. She had been serving on the Board of Review and had been an election inspector.

We believe that with their experience and knowledge, there will be a smooth transition.

### Clean-Up Days

Our annual clean-up days will be on Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7 from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM. There is no charge for rubbish, furniture or scrap metal. Tires must be cut in four pieces. There is a fee of \$15.00 for units with Freon. Large appliances without Freon are \$3.00. Batteries cost \$1.00 to be disposed of. Liquids, cement or shovel offs are not allowed. No loose trash.

### Board of Review

The Board of Review will meet on March 12 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and again on March 14 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00PM to 4:00 PM. These will be by appointment so there should be less waiting.

### Road Projects

Work will continue on Elm from 112th Street to 104th Street this coming summer. This section of road was chosen because of all the truck, and school bus traffic it gets. There were some very narrow areas that were not safe. This was a two-year project due to the cost of the project and the increase in asphalt prices.

The roads that will be resealed next summer have not been decided on yet.

### Fire Protection

The firemen have a new Ford F350 that they use for medical runs and grass fires.

The tanker has also been replaced this past year.

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 AM. The purpose of the annual meeting is to hold a public hearing and for the public to vote on the officials salaries. You have the authority to alter or act on the salary of your elected officials.

At this meeting the supervisor presents a "state of the township" message stating what has been accomplished during the past year and what is proposed to be accomplished in the ensuing year.

This is YOUR time to voice concerns you may have about things (good or bad) that are going on in the Township.

### Seeking Bids

Please take notice that we are currently seeking bids for the **mowing and trimming** of the following properties: North Ensley Cemetery on 104th Street, Crandall Cemetery on 22 Mile Road, the Ensley Township Hall and Fire Barn grounds at 120th Street and Cypress and the Baptist Lake Park grounds (north Picnic area and south lakefront area.) The bid should be for the mowing season. Independent Contractors are to supply a copy of liability and worker's compensation insurance. The sealed bids are due March 6, 2007 by 8:00 P.M. at the Township Hall or mailed to: Ensley Township Clerk, 7901 E 104th Street, Howard City, MI 49329. Telephone inquiries 231-937-5091. The Ensley Township Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.



### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission has been very busy this past year with changes to our zoning ordinance. This year, one of their big projects is working on updating the Township Master Plan.

If you would like to come to one of their meetings, they start at 8:00 PM.

February 26	March 26
April 30	May 21
June 25	July 30
August 27	September 24
October 29	November 26
December—No meeting	

### Crime Watch

These meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month and start at 7:30 PM at the hall.

### Election

There will be an election on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the fire barn for those people who live in the Tri County School District and Grant School District.

### Dog Clinic

Our annual dog clinic will be held on February 24 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Ensley Township Fire Barn. A one or three year license may be purchased. Shots are available for distemper, rabies and/or kennel cough. The three in one shots for cats are also available.



### Grant Library

The Grant Area District Library Board of Trustees will have a vacancy in December of 2007. Ensley Township needs someone who pays taxes to the Grant School District to serve on this board. If no one volunteers, Ensley will not be represented.

### News from our Assessor

This spring I will begin a three year project to reappraise every property in the township. The reappraisal involves measuring every home and outbuilding as well as updating the property records to ensure that all information is as accurate as possible. If you are not home when I stop by, I will leave a questionnaire that you can complete and mail or drop off to me at the township hall. Your cooperation will help ensure that all assessments are fair and accurate.

### Sheriff's Patrol

The contract for the additional deputy was not renewed due to the millage not passing last August. That contract expires the first of May.

If you plan on splitting your property or adjusting a lot line, the Michigan Land Division Act requires township approval. You can obtain a land division application at the township hall or by downloading from the Assessor's page at the Ensley Township website—[www.ensleytownship.org](http://www.ensleytownship.org) All new parcels resulting from a land division or lot line adjustment must conform to the current Ensley Township Zoning.

### Zoning News

Zoning is a task that even professional planners find daunting at times. It is a tool that allows the Township to prescribe not only what area of the township the activity may be placed in, but also the particulars such as required lot size, setbacks from property lines and roads, building sizes and hours of operation among others.

There is a delicate balancing act and not always a perfect solution for every situation. There are times the standards are inherently strict so as to make it difficult for some uses in particular zoning districts. Special Land Uses with unique and specific requirements are often utilized when this occurs. Some requests for land uses are denied. The Zoning Board of Appeals is used to review these instances with strict "standards of review."

The Sheriff's office is exploring different ways to provide coverage to the southern part of Newaygo County. The Sheriff's office is looking at potentially adding or creating a substation to cover the area South of the Muskegon River and assigning four officers to that area. This area has the most population and the most growth.

My name is Bob Hall and I'm your Zoning Administrator. I can be found at the hall on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and on Thursdays from noon until 6:00 PM. If I happen to be out at the time of your visit, I'm probably on the road performing inspections and following up on concerns about zonings. I'll be back soon.