

March 14, 2025

To the residents of Edenville Township:

This is the first of my monthly updates to to the township. For completeness, I have included note to you from last month.

This past month has been rather full. On February 14, I announced my resignation as Supervisor to you. In the following weeks, many of you expressed supportful sadness for my decision. Over the next 14 days, I become convinced that a coalition could be forged with my fellow board members that would lead to an improvement in civility; hence I called a special meeting on February 28 to rescind not only my resignation, but those of the Treasurer and Trustee.

At that meeting we approved a couple of follow-on workshops to better understand what our duties are and how best to execute those duties. The first of those is scheduled for 6:00 PM at Swanton Hall on March 26<sup>th</sup> and will be led by our Township Attorney, Kyle O'Meara. The plan is for Kyle to make a 60-or so minute presentation to the Board following by a 90- or so minute interactive conversation with the Board. NOTE: While this is an Open Meeting and there will be time for Public Comment at the end of the session, the interaction with the attorney will be limited to engaging with the board. This meeting will be streamed via Zoom and the recording will be available on the township website. The second of the two workshops will be facilitated by the Michigan Township Association, MTA, and targeted for delivery in April 2025. This too will be for the benefit of the Board but will be open to the public and will be streamed / available for watching via Zoom.

Monday and Tuesday this past week was the annual Board Of Review where residents had an opportunity to come and protest their property tax valuation. Like in years past, the majority of residents came with confusion over the process and between our board of volunteers and Assessor, I would say most residents left with a much better understanding of the process and how it works. The Board, which is made up of property-tax paying residents, listened

to over 20 resident protests and answered their questions. Note the Board Of Review has no standing or jurisdiction over Special Assessments like those from the Four Lakes Task Force or the Midland County Drain Commission.

This past Tuesday, 3/11/25, we held our fourth regular board meeting chaired by me and we continue to work through issues and differences. You can watch the recording of that meeting or any of the other meetings since my election on the Board meetings page of our website. Note: I understand and am working on better audio and video options so the recordings become more effective.

Looking forward, I have a number of items on the Township's Agenda:

1. Reviewing responses from the RFP for audit services that was sent to local accounting firms in response to our Clerk's allegation of financial misconduct on the part of the Treasury Department (Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer). These responses will be reviewed at the April Board Meeting for next steps by the Board.
2. Working with our Township Attorney on the creation of a new Special Assessment District for the management of the exposed Lakebed. I would expect that this will be ready for township review in the May – June timeframe and will be sure to let the public know when this will be reviewed and voted upon by the board.
3. Finalizing a proposal for a new phone system to be reviewed and approved by the board.
4. Working on an RFP/Interview questions for looking for a new Township Attorney. A majority of our Board would like to reinterview our current Attorney and consider other options in the process.
5. Working to build out the "Coffee with the Council" agenda. Our first session will focus on Township Roads and Road Maintenance and will be an open forum for the board to engage with Midland Road Commission on the state of our roads, and recommendations for building an ongoing maintenance plan and budget. The original target was to hold this session in March, but May is more appropriate as it will

allow time for our residents who winter in the South to return to Edenville.

6. Working with our Web Hosting Company on a refresh of our existing website.
7. Preparation for budget workshops, development of a proposed budget and presentation at the GAA in late June.

I hope that you all have time to enjoy this taste of Spring we are experiencing and look forward to Spring's full arrival.

Till next month...

God Bless you, this township, county, state, and the United States.

Respectfully,

Arthur C. Peters

Supervisor

Edenville Township