

HAYES TOWNSHIP, OTSEGO COUNTY NEWSLETTER FOR WINTER 2016-2017

MISSION STATEMENT: To be responsive to the needs of our township citizens, to be knowledgeable and informed leaders, to make the best decisions to preserve the desired quality of life.

OFFICERS: Supervisor: Mary Sanders (Assessor)	(989) 732 4206
Clerk: Richard Ross	732 9576
Treasurer: Jessie Geiger	231 585 7184
Trustee: Brad Kilbourn	858 0855
Trustee: Dan Wagar	732 3401

Your township officials work from their homes. There is no mail delivery to the township hall. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6 PM. The township hall is located at the corner of M 32 W and Hayes Tower Road. The 2017 calendar is posted at the hall with two changes to the date of the township meetings.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Contact the township treasurer for all updated address information. The township officials must have the most recent accurate information. This is vital for homesteaded properties.

ASSESSING QUESTIONS: The assessor will answer your questions and concerns about property values, property transfer affidavits, principle resident exemptions, land divisions, and board of review information. Assessment change notices are mailed in late February each year prior to the March board of reviews. The state mandated multipliers have changed for 2017 and land values have some differences based upon the sales in the township from October 2014 to October 2016.

CEMETERY LOTS: Contact Supervisor Mary Sanders about the purchase of lots or information about the memorial gardens. Boy Scout Troop # 1 does the mowing and clean- up of the township and cemetery grounds. We appreciate their service and our partnership.

CLEAN UP DAY: American Waste has set our date for **JUNE 10**, the WEEK before Father's Day. The site is the same; Little League Drive, the hours are **7 to 10 am**. Notice the new time! No hazardous materials will be accepted. Air conditioners, refrigerators, or freezers will **NOT** be accepted. Please bring proof of residency that morning!

ELECTIONS: Contact the clerk, Richard Ross, to register to vote in Hayes Township. This year is considered to be an off election year. However, elections may be held for important purposes. Proper notification will be given for the dates to register to vote and inform voters of the election dates. Richard Ross will send absentee ballots when requested.

FIRE PROTECTION: The Otsego County Fire Department serves all of Hayes Township. The township pays nearly \$47,000 per year for our coverage. The voters approved the purchase of a new fire truck and equipment with a one year millage of 0.8000.

FULL TIME RESIDENCY: When you become a resident of Hayes Township, you must file a principle residence affidavit with the assessor. The deadline is June 1 each year. New residents between June and November 1 will receive a winter PRE if the affidavit is filed by November 1.

GROWTH: The real property value of the township in 2016 was 118,448,000 in assessed values. Personal property added 15,864,700 of additional value. The equalized value of over 134 million in assessments became 114 .9 million for taxable value and generated about \$98,000 in tax dollars for the township. Our township millage rate for 2017 decreased to 0.8712. The township treasurer collects over \$3.8 million dollars that are disbursed to the many taxing units. They are all listed on your tax bills.

HOUSE NUMBERS: Please display your house number so emergency personnel can locate your home or cottage. Unnecessary delays can make a difference of life or death. It is surprising how many people still do not have house numbers displayed. Think how many service people need to know where to find you. This is necessary for full time and part time homeowners. PLEASE put the house numbers on your dwelling, or mailbox, or post.

NEW TOWNSHIP TREASURER: The electors voted in Jessie Geiger as our new treasurer. Jessie lives in Wilderness Valley and has been working with Barbara Kurbel over several months as Deputy Treasurer. Barbara helped the township with the 2016 work after Wayne and Rosemarie Tyler passed away in 2015. Jessie's contact information will be added to the new county directory and other avenues for information.

RE-CYCLING SITE: There is a county re-cycling site just south of the township hall on Hayes Tower Road. A millage was passed to provide bins to recycle papers, plastics, cardboard, tin, and glass. This site is open year round and convenient for those who do recycle. This is available to residents and seasonal residents for use. The site is provided by the township and maintained by Otsego County. A great response has been seen in the amount of recycled items and it keeps increasing. Thanks to all of you who do recycle. If you don't recycle, try it. You are saving the environment both today and for tomorrow!

ROAD CONSTRUCTION: During 2016 minor projects were completed. The township will continue to work with the county road commission to maintain and upgrade roads as we can. Thanks to the voters who supported the one mil for 10 years. It helps the road commission plan ahead and each township will benefit in some manner. Roads will always be a priority.

TAX BILLS: The summer tax bills are sent July 1 and are due by Sept 14. The winter billing is sent Dec 1 and is due by February 14. The March Board of Review sets the values for the calendar year. The non-homestead rate is 41.6186 mils. The homestead (PRE) rate is 23.5694 mils. The non-residents pay the additional 18 mils for school operations.

TOWNSHIP BOARD: Your township officers pay for road construction, fire protection, and salaries for the officers. We also pay for county planning and zoning, the annual clean-up day, economic alliance, and SANE. We maintain the township hall and the computer equipment. Lesser expenses include street lights, insurances, association dues, board of review members and election workers. We prepare a yearly budget and we do have regular audits of the township accounting.

VETERANS EXEMPTION: If you are 100% disabled veteran, you are exempt from paying property taxes on your home. This does not include a seasonal or second home. This does not include adjoining lands. To see if you qualify, you MUST call Marlene Hopp, Otsego County Veterans Counselor, at 989 731 7575. The proper forms must be filed each year. Renewal letters to the veterans entitled to the exemption will be sent in February.

ZONING: Hayes Township subscribes to Otsego County zoning regulations. For zoning uses, land divisions, and building permits, you must contact the Land Use Service office at 989 731 7420.