

HAYES TOWNSHIP, OTSEGO COUNTY NEWSLETTER FOR WINTER 2023-2024

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	(989) 732 9576
Treasurer: Jessie Geiger	(231) 585 7184
Trustee: Brad Kilbourn	(989) 858 0855
Trustee: Lisa Daly	(989) 614 1370

Your township officials work from their homes. There is **no mail delivery** at 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 2024 calendar is posted at the hall and on the website: hayestwpostsegomi.gov.

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 AND TAX INFORMATION: bsaonline.com provides updated information on the assessments and the tax billings for our citizens at no charge for your own properties. Information is printed on your tax bills. Information is also available on the website.

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 inflation multiplier has been set at 1.05 for 2024.

CEMETERY LOTS: Contact Supervisor Mary Sanders about the purchase of lots or information about the memorial gardens. Boy Scouts continue to do the mowing and clean- up of the township and cemetery grounds. We appreciate their service and our partnership. Richard Ross maintains the computerized cemetery records and Brad Kilbourn works with the family and the funeral homes for the location of the gravesite and the completed purchases. The memorial garden has been updated/improved in cooperation with the Eagle Scout project for Andrew Kilbourn.

CLEAN UP DAY: American Waste (GFL) has set our date for **JUNE 8, 2024**. The GFL location is at the corner of US 131 and M 32 W. The hours will be **7-10 AM**. There may be hazardous waste clean- up days during 2024. The dates will be advertised in the springtime. No hazardous materials will be accepted on June 8. Tires, 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. Richard Ross will send absentee ballots when requested by the registered voter. Three elections are now scheduled: Presidential primary, Feb 27, Primary Aug 6, and General Nov 5, 2024. See the website!

FIRE PROTECTION: The Otsego County Fire Department serves all of Hayes Township. Hayes Township will pay \$90,000 in 2023 for fire protection. We share the expenses with the City of Gaylord and Bagley, ½ Chester, Dover, and Livingston Townships. Our portions are based on population and the state equalized value of the units.

FULL TIME RESIDENCY: When you become a resident of Hayes Township, you must file a principal residence affidavit (PRE) 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. The principal residence exemption is audited on a yearly basis by the State of Michigan for accuracy. They review the current year and the 3 previous years of taxes that may be owed.

GROWTH: The real and personal property value of the township in 2022 was \$396,492,200. The township millage rate was lowered to 0.8555 for 2023 and remains the same for 2024. The township treasurer collects just over \$4.4 million dollars that are disbursed to the many taxing units. They are all listed on your tax bills. Hayes Twp. Millage generates \$132,000.

HALL RENTALS: Contact Lisa Daly, Trustee, for information, pricing, and availability for the township hall rental. Hall agreement forms can be found at hayestwpotsegomi.gov.

HOUSE NUMBERS: You are required to display your house number so emergency personnel can locate your home or cottage. This is important for full time and part time homeowners. PLEASE put the house numbers on your dwelling, pole buildings, mailbox, or post.

RE-CYCLING SITE: There is a county re-cycling site just south of the township hall on Hayes Tower Road. A millage was renewed to provide bins to recycle papers, plastics, cardboard, tin, and glass. This site is open year-round and convenient for those who recycle. This is available to residents and seasonal residents for use. The site is provided by the township and maintained by Otsego County. **Please do not leave trash or junk at the re-cycling location!!!!**

ROAD CONSTRUCTION: The township continues to work with the county road commission to maintain and upgrade roads as we can. Roads are always a priority. During 2023 Old Stump Rd and the north portion of Hayes Tower Rd were repaired and re-surfaced. The township cost was \$300,000. The local road millage was renewed so Hayes Twp will have additional projects ahead!

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 37.6216 mils. The homestead (PRE) rate is 19.6216 mils. Non-residents pay an additional 18 mils for school operations as part of Proposal A of 1994.

VETERANS EXEMPTION: If you are a 100% disabled veteran, you are exempt from paying property taxes on your home. This does not include a seasonal or second home or adjoining lands. To see if you qualify, you MUST call Marlene Hopp, Otsego County Veterans Counselor, at (989) 731 7575.

WEBSITE: The township website is Hayes Twp, Otsego---hayestwpotsegomi.gov. Check it out and give us your feedback!

ZONING: Hayes Township subscribes to Otsego County building & zoning regulations. For zoning uses, land divisions, and building permits, you must contact the Land Use Service office at (989) 731 7400. For enforcement issues, call the same phone number. A part-time person was hired during 2023.