

HAYES TOWNSHIP, OTSEGO COUNTY NEWSLETTER FOR WINTER 2025-2026

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 on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6 PM. Changes to the calendar will be posted accordingly. The township hall is located at the corner of M 32 W and Hayes Tower Road. The 2026 calendar is posted at the hall and on the website: **hayestwpotsego.com**.

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, principal 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 1.027 for 2025-- lower than 2024 & 2023.

CEMETERY LOTS: Contact Supervisor Mary Sanders about the purchase of lots or information about the memorial gardens. Richard Ross maintains 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 2024.

CLEAN UP DAY: American Waste (GFL) has set our date for **JUNE 13, 2026**. 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 2026. The dates will be advertised in the springtime. No hazardous materials will be accepted on June 13. 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. For 2026 there will be an August primary and November general election. See the township website for all updated information.

FIRE PROTECTION: The Otsego County Fire Department serves all of Hayes Township. We share the expenses with the City of Gaylord and Bagley, ½ Chester, Dover, and Livingston Townships. In 2024 a fire authority was established for the fire department district. One mil is being collected for fire protection and for future equipment purchases. The truck fleet is old, and many repairs have been necessary. The department has updated the fleet during 2025 to provide better service.

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.

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. Rentals are restricted now to residents or taxpayers in Hayes Township.

HOUSING READINESS GRANT: A planning committee was formed and the township entered into an agreement with NEMCOG to prepare a grant based upon a survey of the township citizens and taxpayers. The finished grant will be distributed in early 2026 and is on the Hayes Township website for review. Much information was gathered and analyzed for future planning.

HOUSE NUMBERS: You are required to display your house number so emergency personnel can locate your home or cottage. This is important for all buildings. Many dwellings are not in compliance. PLEASE put the house numbers on your dwelling, pole buildings, mailbox, or post. This is for your protection.

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 paper, 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 2025 the south portion of Mt. Frederick Rd and the Pencil Lake Rd were improved. The township is hopeful for 2 more projects to be approved by the road commission this spring.

TAX BILLS: The summer tax bills are sent July 1 and are due by Sept 14. The winter billing is 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 39.9967 mils. The homestead (PRE) rate is 20.0057 mils. Non-residents pay an additional 18 mils for school operations as part of Proposal A of 1994. The summer bill is 58% of the total millage collected and the summer levy is 42% of the total tax obligation for the entire year.

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.