

HAYES TOWNSHIP, OTSEGO COUNTY NEWSLETTER FOR WINTER 2015-2016

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: Barbara Kurbel	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 2016 calendar is posted at the hall.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Contact the treasurer for 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 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 increased for 2016 and land values have changed.

CEMETERY LOTS: Contact TRUSTEE, BRAD KILBOURN, 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 11**, 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. No air conditioners, refrigerators, or freezers will be accepted .Please bring proof of residency that morning!

ELECTIONS: This is an election year. Contact the clerk, Richard Ross, to register to vote in Hayes Township. There will be a Presidential Primary election in March, and the August and November elections for the election of national, state, and local officials. For the Presidential Primary election in March, absentee ballots must select the party of choice so the correct ballot is sent to the voter.

FIRE PROTECTION: The Otsego County Fire Department serves all of Hayes Township. The township pays nearly \$46,000 per year for our coverage.

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 2015 was 114,943,500 in assessed values. Personal property added 16,082,450 of additional value. The equalized value of over 131 million in assessments became 114.5 million for taxable value and generated about \$98,000 in tax dollars for the township. Our township millage rate is 0.8738. The total homestead levy is 22.5 mils for the schools, county, and extra voted issues. The non- homestead rate is 40.5 mils with the difference going to the school operations. The township treasurer collects over \$3.6 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!

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 2015 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 40.5 mils. The homestead (PRE) rate is 22.5 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. Lessor 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.

It is with sadness that we announce that our township treasurer, Wayne Tyler passed away Sept 19 and his wife, Rosemarie, passed away December 11. Wayne and Rosemarie provided dedicated service to Hayes Township for over 25 years. Their work ethic and service to our township is very much appreciated. They will be missed as township officials as well as friends.

Barbara Kurbel will serve as treasurer until the November 2016 election. She has been trained as the deputy & will provide the services for the collection of taxes. All her contact information will be on the summer tax bills and also posted at the township hall. She has been a resident of the township for many years and worked with the Tylers as their clerk/deputy.