

## HAYES TOWNSHIP, OTSEGO COUNTY NEWSLETTER FOR WINTER 2017-2018

**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.

<b>OFFICERS:</b> Supervisor: Mary Sanders (Assessor)	(989) 732 4206
Clerk: Richard Ross	732 9576
Treasurer: Jessie Geiger	(231) 585 7184
Trustee: Brad Kilbourn	858 0855
Trustee: Lisa Daly	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 2018 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.

**ACCESSING ASSESSING AND TAX INFORMATION:** AccessMyGov.com provides updated information on the assessments and the tax billings for our citizens at no charge for your owned properties. Information is printed on your tax bills.

**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 2018 and increased to 2.1%, the highest increase in many years and land values have some differences based upon the sales in the township from October 2015 to October 2017.

**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 9**, 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. Tires, air conditioners, refrigerators, or freezers will **NOT** be accepted. Please bring proof of residency that morning! A hazardous waste clean- up day will be held the same day at the road commission building on McCoy Road from 9 am to 2 pm.

**ELECTIONS:** Contact the clerk, Richard Ross, to register to vote in Hayes Township. This year is a regular election year as we vote on the Governor and several other offices. August 8 is the primary election and November 7 will be the general election. Proper notification will be given for the dates to register to vote. Richard Ross will send absentee ballots when requested by the registered voter.

**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 in 2016. In the past two years, there was 2 structure fires, 3 chimney/electrical calls, 9 spring fires, leaves, illegal burns etc.

**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 2017 was 120,658,400 in assessed values. Personal property added 23,144,800 of additional value. The equalized value of over 143.8 million in assessments became 124.2 million for taxable value and generated about \$102,000 in tax dollars for the

township. Our township millage rate for 2017 and 2018 is 0.8712. The township treasurer collects over \$4.1 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.

**LAND PURCHASE:** The township board was able to purchase the adjoining 27 acres East of the cemetery this fall. This provides the opportunity for future expansion of the cemetery and other future needs. We were excited that Hayes Township had this opportunity.

**NEW TOWNSHIP TREASURER/TRUSTEE:** The electors voted in 2016 to elect Jessie Geiger as our new treasurer. Jessie lives in Wilderness Valley and has been doing a very good job working for the Hayes Township taxpayers. Lisa Daly was appointed to be our new trustee in August and is a welcome addition. The board interviewed several good candidates. Jessie and Lisa's contact information is in the new county directory and other avenues of 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! Please do not take any trash to the re-cycling location!!!!

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION:** During 2017 your township spent \$200,000 on the construction for the Old Alba Road from Hayes Tower Rd East to the township line near Plywood Rd. There was also some work done at the entrance to the Pencil Lake North subdivision. 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 41.0526 mils. The homestead (PRE) rate is 23.0526 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.

**QUILT:** A quilt was graciously donated from the Hayes Grange Ladies made in 1904 and the Hayes Township board has given that gift to the Otsego County Historical Society for display and keeping.

**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 January.

**ZONING:** Hayes Township subscribe 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.