The Portland Area Fire Authority (Portland Township, Danby Township, and City of Portland) has purchased a new fire truck, which was delivered just in time for the Fourth of July parade. The new truck replaced the 1999 Pierce Engine, which was sold to a fire department in North Dakota.

The new engine has much equipment that is new to our fire department, including battery powered jaws of life, an LED light tower, air conditioned cab, heated front and side windows, top mount pump panel, LED head lights and all LED compartment lighting.

The cost of the new truck, which is shared by the three entities is:

- $250,000 down payment
- $343,816 financed for four years at 2.5%.
- Portland Township’s share will be $32,883 per year, and is a budgeted expense.

Everyone sees the Ionia County Road Commission trucks on the township roads, but very few people actually know who the drivers are, or what their responsibilities are. Meet the two men who are responsible for maintaining the roads in Portland Township—and please note that they have a lot of other duties, as well.

Travis Stemler
Travis is a scraper driver and has worked for the Road Commission for five years. In the summer months he is responsible for maintaining gravel roads in Portland and Orange Townships. In the winter he plows the east end of I96 (M66 to Clinton County line) and also plows roads in Orange Township. He has been working in the two townships for three years. He enjoys meeting the residents of the township, and making the roads safe and smooth. Before he was a scraper driver he was a grader operator for the southwest corner of the county. He likes maintaining the gravel roads in the summer and plowing snow in the winter. Travis is married and has two daughters.

Jon Dalton
Jonny is a grader operator and has worked for the Road Commission for almost two years. He is responsible for maintaining roads in Portland, Orange, Danby and Sebewa Townships. In the winter he is a back-up driver for the east end of I96 and also plows roads in Portland Township. Before coming to the Road Commission Jon worked for a contractor that constructed new roads. Jon has been married for 22 years and has two children. He would like to remind residents to slow down and give workers plenty of room to do their jobs.

If you see either of these guys out doing their jobs, please treat them courteously and let them know how much you appreciate their hard work.
JUNK/NOISE/NUISANCE ORDINANCES
Portland Township has ordinances regarding junk, scrap, trash, old building materials, unlicensed and non-running vehicles, noise, dangerous buildings, and similar nuisances. If complaints are received or nuisances observed, letters are sent requesting compliance. Continued noncompliance may result in a civil infraction ticket being issued. To keep property values up and to keep the Township an attractive place to live, please take care of nuisances similar to the above on your property.

CONSTRUCTION PERMITS
Before construction of any buildings, including farm buildings, decks, signs, or in-ground pools, please contact me for a zoning permit application. Zoning construction application forms are available in a box at the west door of the Township Hall at the Emergency Services Building at 773 Grand river Avenue. All applications and other information are also available on the website at www.portlandtownship.org. Commercial or industrial building expansion or new businesses or new home developments must apply for a site plan review through the Planning commission.

HOME BUSINESSES
There are two types of home business ordinances in Portland Township. You must be a resident at the property to apply for a home business permit.

• A home occupation within a dwelling and/or an accessory building reviewed and permitted by a zoning permit application and meeting the regulations. This type of business is the typical home occupation such as music lessons, typing, crafts, office work, sewing, accounting, and similar occupations.
• The second type is the a home-based business that is more commercial in nature such as a wood or machine shop or vehicle repair and is permitted by special use permit through the Planning Commission. Specific regulations must be met for approval.

CONTACT INFORMATION
You can contact me for permits, applications, or with questions at zoningadmin@msn.com or at (616) 897-4242.

Owner Ted Platte worked with Zoning Administrator Jeanne VanderSloot on the new addition to his business Tri County Collision & Glass Masters.

Portland Township’s Only Cemetery
by Chris Jensen, Township Supervisor
Musser Cemetery, also known as Union Cemetery, is located on Keefer Highway, just south of the intersection of Peck Lake Road. The cemetery dates back to the 1800s and contains about 20 burial sites, including at least one Civil War veteran, Adam A. Lewis (1798-1864). It was originally a family cemetery but was deeded to Portland Township by Dean and Charlotte Gibbs in 1984. It has been maintained by volunteers since it was deeded to the Township in 1984.

We noticed in June 2019 that the cemetery had fallen into a temporary state of disrepair and immediately made plans to address the unfortunate situation. With the help of a great group of volunteers, the property was cleaned up and we have hired a lawn service company to maintain it for the rest of this year. We are looking into possibilities for ongoing maintenance for the future.

Portland Township will always make sure that this cemetery is kept up; if anyone is interested in helping with the maintenance on a volunteer basis, we welcome your help. Please contact us to let us know. The gravestones in the cemetery are extremely fragile and we want to make sure that all volunteers know that they should not handle them or attempt to move them.

Explanation of Township Ordinances
by Jeanne VanderSloot, Portland Township Zoning Administrator

Portland Township Board
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor, Chris Jensen
portlandtscjensen@gmail.com
(517) 647-2479

Clerk, Charlene Keilen
portownship@att.net
(517) 647-6643

Treasurer, Leanne Simon
twp_treas@sbcglobal.net
(517) 647-2075

Trustee, Sue Vanlente
suevanlente@gmail.com
(517) 575-8000

Trustee, Mark Simon
mgsimon@wowway.com
(517) 647-4892

Planning Commission
Meets first Wednesday of March, June, September and December at 7:00 pm

Chair, Cindy Selden
Secretary, Sue Vanlente
Hope Partlow
Tony Dixon
Ross Schneider
Marcy Lay
Evelyn Walkington-Jensen

Zoning Board of Appeals
Annual Organizational Meeting second Wednesday of each January at 6:30 pm. Then as needed.

Kris Bond
Mark Simon
Larry Pung
Marcy Lay
Tom Klein
Alternate, Eileen Main

Board of Review
Meets in December, March, and July

Chris Jensen
Cindy Selden
Nick Sandborn
Matt Robertson
Alternate, Russell Franke
Alternate, Keith Baker

Zoning Administrator
Jeanne Vandersloot
(616) 897-4242
zoningadmin@msn.com

Assessors
Dean and Jason Kohagen
(989) 383-0306
jkohagen@bsasoftware.com