Our new recycling procedures

Last fall Portland and Danby Townships took on a huge joint venture as we began offering our residents monthly recycling to replace the 24/7 recycling bins that had been located at the Bogue Flats. The venture has been very successful and we are grateful to the patience that our recyclers have shown as we learn how to do this on our own.

The volume of recycled products surprised us. A representative from Granger Waste Management who helped us with the project estimated that we would need two bins each month. As any of you know, if you were there in October, two bins filled up quickly and we had to improvise to accommodate the things that didn’t fit inside. We ordered three bins in November, and increased to four after that. For now, four bins seems to be about right.

We had some one-time set up costs (signs, steps, brochures, etc.), and it appears that our monthly expenses are about the same as they were when we were part of the city recycling program. We realize that once a month is not as convenient as 24/7, but at this point in time, it’s the best we can do with our limited resources—manpower and money.

Our records show that an average of 280 households per month are using the facility; the breakdown is approximately 60% Portland Township/40% Danby Township. Approximately 11% of our residents recycle through this site. The state average is 15%, so assuming that some of our residents recycle through other sites, we are very close to the state average.

Survey Results

Surveys were distributed with the winter tax bills and the deadline to return the survey was February 15, 2018. A total of 104 surveys were returned. The survey was also available online; no one used it.

How concerned are you about the following: (0 = no opinion, 1 = not concerned, 2 = somewhat concerned, 3 = very concerned)

- 2.50 Ground water quality
- 1.90 Preservation of rural character
- 1.87 Crime
- 1.84 Conversion of farms into house lots
- 1.80 Enforcement of zoning ordinance
- 1.65 Cost of new housing
- 1.17 Too much commercial development
- 1.17 Lack of recreation facilities

From the following list, please select the two most important reasons you have chosen to live in Portland Township:

- 61 Rural setting
- 31 Good schools
- 28 Good neighborhood
- 26 Safe area
- 21 Farming activity

Thinking about the growth of the township, do you think that Portland Township is growing

- 8 Too quickly
- 75 About right *
- 5 Too slowly
- 14 No opinion

(Continued on page 2)
**Survey Results (continued)**

Please answer the following questions with Y (Yes), N (No) or O (No opinion):

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**Would you willing to pay a higher road millage to see more local investment in Township roads?**

**Are you concerned about the impact of large farm machinery on our township roads?**

**Do you think the Township should allow commercial marijuana growing, processing, and selling facilities?**

**Do you have access to high speed internet access (25 megabits per second or more)?**

**If not, would you be willing to help fund investment via a millage or fees to ensure high speed internet is available to all township residents?**

**Do you feel the junk ordinance is working to clean up the township?**

**Do you want a grass cutting ordinance?**

**Do you use the township website?**

**Do you feel that the Township Board members are easy to contact?**

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**Other comments:**

- Lyons Road and David Hwy please
- Please reopen Goodwin Bridge
- Aren't we already paying more? Roads haven't seemed to improve
- Milk trucks and sand trucks
- Millage is unfair tax for roads
- Not on our road

**How long have you lived in the township?** Average 38.2 years

**Do you rent or own?** 100% own

**Would you consider serving on the Planning Commission or ZBA?** 11 said yes

**If you would like to be added to our email list, please provide you email address.** 34 provided emails

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Our last survey was done in 2012. Many more people responded to that survey, but overall, the results were the same: The main concerns of our township residents are roads, groundwater quality, and the rural nature of the township. The results of this survey also told us that our residents overwhelmingly do not want medical marijuana facilities, would not be willing to pay millage for high speed internet, and do not want a grass-cutting ordinance in the township.

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**Township roads**

Each spring members of the Portland Township Board do a ride-along road trip with the Ionia County Road Commission. We travel most of the township roads, especially roads that are in need of gravel or other maintenance work.

This annual road trip provides us with the information that we need to make good decisions; it also educates us. We end up with a better understanding of the dynamics of road upkeep and how it is affected by weather conditions, speed of traffic, heavy farm equipment, etc. Hopefully, we can pass this information on to you when you ask questions.

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**Visit our website**

Our website contains a wealth of information. If you have questions about what's happening within Portland Township, be sure to look there first:

- Contact information for all elected officials
- Meeting schedules
- Public notices
- Ordinances
- Meeting minutes
- Current master plan
- Tax collection information
- Information on recycling, burning permits

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**Portland Township Board**

Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 pm

- **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**
- **Bill Stegenga**
- **Tony Dixon**
- **Ross Schneider**
- **Marcy Lay**

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

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

- **Chair, Tony Simon**
- **Secretary, Kris Bond**
- **Mark Simon**
- **Larry Pung**
- **Marcy Lay**
- **Alternate, Eileen Main**

**Board of Review**

Meets in December, March, and July

- **Chris Jensen**
- **Cindy Selden**
- **Nick Sandborn**
- **Vacancy**
- **Alternate, Keith Baker**

**Zoning Administrator**

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

**Assessors**

Dean and Jason Kohagen
(517) 641-8900
jkohagen@bsasoftward.com