

## Fife Lake Township December 2015 Newsletter

**Fife Lake Township Board of Review** will meet on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for the purposes of correcting clerical errors or mutual mistake of fact. They **will not** be hearing valuation appeals at this meeting. If there is a clerical error on your tax bill please contact Dawn Kuhns, Assessor at 231-409-1827. The deadline for qualifying for the **Principal Residence Exemption** is Nov. 1st each year. **Veteran exemptions** are granted by the Board of Review each year for 100% totally and permanently disabled veterans or veterans that are determined unemployable by the Veterans Administration. Applications for 2016 tax year may be turned in starting 1-1-2016 **Assessed Value** (which is the same as the SEV) o represents ½ the value of your property. **Taxable Value** is last year's Taxable Value plus the rate of inflation and any improvements made to the property. The year following a transfer of ownership the taxable value gets "uncapped" to the SEV. **Property taxes are based on the Taxable Value.**

### **Tax Collection dates and times are:**

December 4, 11, 17 (Thurs) 10am to 4pm  
December 28 (Mon) 9am to 5pm  
January 8, 15, 22, 29 10am to 4pm  
February 5 10am to 4 pm  
February 16 9am to 5pm

**2016 Election Dates** February 8, last date to register for primary  
March 5 - 2pm, deadline for electors requesting absent voter ballot, must submit application  
March 7 up to 4 pm, electors qualified to obtain absent voter ballot may vote in person in Clerk's Office  
March 8, Presidential Primary  
August 2, State Primary  
November 8, General Election  
**Polls open at 7 am, remain open until 8 pm**

Fife Lake Township repealed our ordinance establishing a **building inspection department.**

This responsibility is now under Grand Traverse County Construction Code office located at 2650 LaFranier Road, Traverse City, MI. Their phone number is 231-995-6049, Bruce Remai is the Director. **Zoning Permits** remain the responsibility of Fife Lake Township.

**New Zoning Administrator.** The Fife Lake Township board hired Jason Green as Zoning Administrator. He can be reached at our office, 231-879-3963 or email at [flt zoning@gmail.com](mailto:flt zoning@gmail.com). Jason lives in Cadillac, has four daughters and two dogs. He is a U.S. Army veteran.

The **Planning Commission** meets the second Thursday bimonthly. Schedules are posted on our website and at the township hall. We are in the process of updating our Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Any goals and/or objectives you may have, please share at any one of our open meetings.

Through the Grand Traverse County Chapter of Michigan Townships Association and Grand Traverse County's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet held on November 2, 2015

- **Joanne Ogur** was recognized for her outstanding efforts as a Township Trustee with a Certificate of Appreciation
- **Noreen Broering** was recognized for her hard work in coordinating the Fife Lake Loop Trail with a Distinguished Service Award

Please thank these women in passing for the volunteerism in Fife Lake Township.

**Roads:** Just south of Van's Lane on Boyd Street, several of our dying **maple trees** were cut. They had become a danger to those driving and walking. We thank the Grand Traverse County Road Commission/CRC (Toby Javin) for taking on the responsibility to correct this dangerous situation. Personally, I lived here as a child and I hated to see the trees go as they once *were* a beautiful asset to that stretch of the road.

**Townline Road** is still under discussion with the CRC and Paradise Township. We hope to be able to see this road work done in 2016.

**Lakeshore Drive** seems to be deteriorating. I am discussing this with our CRC representative (Carl Brown). Jim Johnson, the CRC Engineer will be getting us an estimate for an improvement project.

**M-186** was recently upgraded by MDOT, a great improvement with wider shoulders for our safety. Thank you MDOT!

**M-113** from U.S.131 north to the curve will be redone in 2016 by MDOT.

**Grand Traverse Rural Fire:** Long Lake Township will be leaving Rural Fire as of December 31, 2015. They have been a contributor of approximately 40% funding to Rural Fire. Green Lake Township also is considering leaving Rural Fire, they contribute about 20% funding. If Green Lake Township leaves along with Long Lake, we will lose about 34 volunteer fire fighters. Because of these changes, the board is struggling with a decreased budget of possibly less than half. One of the cost saving changes we are making is to move the Rural Fire office to Paradise Township station. This will take place by 1-1-2016.

**Tom Gray is resigning as Supervisor of Springfield Township** as of 12-31-2015. A big void will be felt with his absence. As the Springfield Township representative on our Ambulance Authority and Rural Fire, we will greatly miss his historical and ongoing

knowledge and expertise. **Thank you Tom** for your part in seeing that our citizens have the best care with our emergency services. We wish you well in your retirement!

**Civic Center South** continues to explore putting down a **water well for irrigation** which would save us considerable money over the years. Currently we are hooked into the Village of Kingsley water system for all our watering needs. Remember an **ice arena** is now in our park at 1000 Clark Street, Kingsley – if you like to skate, please visit the park this winter. **Our meetings** will be held bimonthly throughout the winter. We meet on second Thursday at 4:30 pm, December, February and April at the Kingsley Village offices at 207 S. Brownson Avenue, Kingsley, MI.

Update: **The Grand Traverse** Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians awarded Fife Lake Township a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to upgrade our boat access on the south end of Fife Lake. Preliminary work has been done on the parking area; the launch pad and a dock will be done in the Spring along with a vegetative coil to prevent shoreline erosion. The DEQ and DNR are participating with this work which will offset the cost of the project. We thank the G.T. Band for their generosity to our township along with Clerk Street and the DEQ/DNR.

**The Fife Lake Township Board strives to provide the best services to our citizens:**

**Office 231-879-3843, 134 Morgan Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633**

**Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.,**

**Wednesdays from noon to 5:00 p.m., closed on Fridays.**

Linda Forwerck-Supervisor 231-631-1750  
Terry Street-Clerk 231-263-0056  
Leigh Gifford-Deputy Clerk 231-313-3730  
Cathy Sorrow-Treasurer 231-879-4656  
Char LaFeve-Deputy Treasurer  
Joanne Ogur, Trustee  
Lori Ann Rognlie, Trustee

Mike Hornacek- Deputy 231-879-5302  
Jason Green-Zoning Adm. 231-879-3963  
Dawn Kuhns-Assessor 231-409-1827  
John Kelley-Cemetery Sexton 231-384-2820  
Steve Marth, EMS Director 231-879-4009  
Kyle Bonter, Fire Captain 231-879-4009  
Rob Melancon-Fire Lieutenant 231-879-4009

**We thank all our volunteers who make Fife Lake Township a better place to live.**

Additional numbers we get asked for:

**Fife Lake Village 879-4291, Sewer 879-3565, Springfield Township 879-3595, Library 879-4101, Post Office 879-3571**