



*NEWS YOU CAN USE!*

# PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Winter 2013

[www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com)

## **HOT TOPICS**

The General Election is on November 6th from 7 am to 8 pm. Registered voters vote at either Precinct 1 (Town Hall) or Precinct 2 (Fire Station No. 2). Registered voters who want an absentee ballot by mail must submit an absentee voter ballot application by 2 pm, November 3rd. The Clerk's office is open on Friday, November 2nd from 1 to 4 pm and Saturday, November 3rd from 9 am to 2 pm. A qualified voter with an absentee ballot may vote in person at the Clerk's office until 4 pm, November 5th. In addition to township, county, state and federal elections, there are six state-wide proposals and a bond proposal on the ballot. The township cannot endorse any candidates or ballot issues. For your information, the following proposals are on the ballot:

- 1 – Referendum on Public Act 4 of 2011 – Emergency Manager Law
- 2 – Proposal to amend the state constitution regarding collective bargaining
- 3 – Proposal to amend the state constitution to establish a standard for renewable energy
- 4 – Proposal to amend the state constitution to establish the Michigan Quality Home Care Council and provide collective bargaining for in-home care workers
- 5 – Proposal to amend the state constitution to limit the enactment of new taxes by state government
- 6 – Proposal to amend the state constitution regarding construction of international bridges and tunnels

There is also a Traverse City Area Public Schools bonding proposal.

Copies of the entire ballot with precise language for each of these proposals are available at the township and have been published in the Record-Eagle. This information is also available on our website under "Elections – Sample Ballot".

## **SPECIAL USE PERMITS (SUP), ORDINANCES (ORD), AND ISSUES CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED AT EITHER THE TOWN BOARD OR PLANNING COMMISSION**

- ▶ Large Gathering Events Ordinance No. 51 – The Planning Commission is working on standards for large gatherings on public land. A separate but related discussion addresses large events on private property for commercial purposes.
- ▶ The Planning Commission continues throughout the winter to update the Zoning Code to reflect our Master Plan.

## **STAY INFORMED**

Plan to attend the meetings, write letters and call Planning Commission and Town Board members to voice your concerns on these and other issues. To keep up with notices, agendas, reports, minutes and meetings, check the web site regularly at [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com). Notice of Public Hearings and a synopsis of Town Board meeting minutes are also found in the Record-Eagle classified section. The Town Board and Planning Commission have additional posted/open meetings at the Town Hall other than the regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

## KUDOS

- ▶ Thanks to Jim Horton who is coming off the Township Board after eight years of service and Gary Wilson who resigned in August. Gary was replaced by Wendy Witkop, who was appointed in September.
- ▶ Thanks to Bob Blackmer who served as temporary park facilities manager and Patty Rudolph for picking up litter at Haserot Beach every Sunday.
- ▶ Thanks to Bob Stafford who retired from the Fire Department after thirteen years of service.
- ▶ You hear this year after year but it never diminishes the impact on our community – Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society and Boy Scout Troop 34 and Webelos Pack 26 planted more maple trees along the Center Road corridor in October. The total now exceeds 500 trees. You can order a memorial tree by calling Jim Hall at 223-8823. What a legacy!
- ▶ Thanks to Keifer Dunn, Ruess Rolloff and Ryan and Claire Sanijdak who pulled the weeds in front of the Township Office.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ The Michigan Township Association has asked each township to pass along the following information to senior citizens, veterans and persons with disabilities: "All federal benefits will soon be paid electronically. Those already receiving benefit payments electronically do not need to take further action. Anyone currently receiving paper checks should switch by March 1, 2013. Otherwise, payments will be received via a Direct Express debit card". Visit [www.godirect.org](http://www.godirect.org) or contact Laura Von Bergen at (312) 988-2448 or [lvonbergen@webershandwick.com](mailto:lvonbergen@webershandwick.com) for further information.
- ▶ Cost cutting at the Post Office begins in January. Hours of service at the Old Mission Post Office are being reduced to four hours on weekdays and two hours on Saturdays. At this time the building is expected to remain open for box holders to pick up their mail from 8 am to 6 pm.
- ▶ Many citizens have questioned the need for replacing the signage on state highway M-37 (Center Road). Every state transportation department is required to meet federal safety standards including such things as road striping, driveway access and signage. Our old signs had weathered through the years and had lost their reflectivity thereby making the road less safe for night driving and during inclement weather. According to the local MDOT office, their goal is to reduce the number of signs as much as practicable; however some signs are required by law and cannot be eliminated.
- ▶ Do not cut phragmites! The successful township-wide spray treatment of phragmites eliminated 78% of the original stands of the invasive weed. Now we are concerned that recent state legislation allowing beach grooming will stimulate the growth of phragmites. Cutting only stimulates root growth. Our successful spray program is managed by Wetland and Wildlife Solutions and is funded by private contributions and support from the township, county and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.
- ▶ The Town Hall stone foundation was repaired and new concrete stairs poured. The handicapped ramp along the south side of the building was also improved. Workers commented that hand-hewn supporting timbers were still solid (likely hemlock) and accounted for the structural integrity of the 136 year old building.
- ▶ The Septage Treatment Plant bonds were retired and refinanced by the five involved townships and county to cut over \$200,000 in costs. The Board of Public Works is studying alternative methods of funding. If you would like to voice your opinion, send an email to the Board of Public Works.
- ▶ The township passed Fireworks Ordinance No. 50 that makes it illegal to shoot fireworks on any day other than the day before, the day of or the day after a national holiday.

- ▶ The township passed an ordinance enforcement policy to restrictive covenants that are set by a development but exceed our zoning standards. Restrictive covenants will be enforced by the property owners association. This includes standards such as outdoor boat storage, hanging laundry outdoors and landscaping standards which apply to the particular development.

**OPERATING INFO**

- ▶ The Fire Department received a grant from Homeland Security Port Authority for a new boat for our Marine Rescue Team. Our department does most of the rescues in the bays. There is a 25% match required and the department welcomes contributions toward this match. The department also purchased a new personal accountability system to increase fire personnel safety during emergencies and two new data terminals for better communication with Grand Traverse Central Dispatch.
- ▶ The Treasurer is sending out winter tax bills by December 1st. They are due February 14, 2013.

**SCHEDULES and EVENTS**

**Town Board**  
 (second Tuesday at 7 pm)  
 November 5 at 9 am\*  
 December 11  
 January 8  
 February 12

**Town Board Work Session**  
 (fourth Thursday at 7 pm if needed)  
 November – No Meeting  
 December 27  
 January 24  
 February 28

**Planning Commission**  
 (third Monday at 7 pm)  
 November 19  
 December 17  
 January 21  
 February 25\*

\* Note: an asterisk denotes a date change from the normal date

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
 (second Thursday at 7 pm)  
 November 8  
 December 13  
 January 10  
 February 14

**Board of Review**  
 December 11 – 9 am to 11 am  
 Correction of clerical errors and mistakes of facts only

**Park Commission**  
 (first Wednesday at 7 pm)  
 November 7  
 December 5  
 January 2  
 February 6

**Fire Board**  
 (first Monday at 7 pm)  
 November 13  
 December 11  
 January 7  
 February 4

**DIRECTORY**

**Office Manager:**  
 Susan Piehl **223-7322**  
 Fax **223-7117**  
 officemanager@peninsulatownship.com

**Supervisor:**  
 Rob Manigold **223-7322**  
 supervisor@peninsulatownship.com

**Clerk:**  
 Monica Hoffman **223-7321**  
 clerk@peninsulatownship.com

**Deputy Clerk:**  
 Deb Hamilton **223-7321**

**Treasurer:**  
 Dave Weatherholt **223-4484**  
 treasurer@peninsulatownship.com

**Deputy Treasurer:**  
 Mary Avery **223-4484**

**Trustees:**  
 Jill Byron **932-1339**  
 Jim Horton **223-4282**  
 Penny Rosi **223-7560**  
 Wendy Witkop **883-6003**

**Assessor:**  
 Sally Akerley **223-7313**  
 assessor@peninsulatownship.com

**Planner:**  
 Dan Leonard **223-7314**  
 planner@peninsulatownship.com

**Zoning Administrator:**  
 Gordy Uecker **223-7318**  
 zoning@peninsulatownship.com

**Compactor/Recy. Station** **223-4446**

**Fire Department**  
 (non-emergency) **223-4443**

**Peninsula Comm. Library** **223-7700**

**Sheriff (non-emergency)** **223-4525**

Mission Point Lighthouse Museum Admission - 2012

**VOUCHER**

Good for free admission for bearer and guests. Coupon required.  
 Valid for up to six persons. Can not be duplicated. Single use only.

Sponsored by the Peninsula Township Park Commission

**SCHEDULES and EVENTS**

**Peninsula Community Library**

Monday and Thursday – 9 am to 9 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9 am to 5:30 pm

Saturday – 9 am to 1 pm

Story Stew, first and third Thursday – 11 am

Nuestros Amigos, third Saturday – 10 am

Closed on November 29 – 30 for holiday

**Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society**

(first Thursday at 7 pm – Town Hall)

Annual Christmas dinner at American Legion Hall

**Mission Point Lighthouse**

is open Friday through Sunday

November and December 10 am – 6 pm

Sleigh Rides on December 8  
1 pm – 4 pm, \$10 per person

**American Legion Dinners**

(first and third Tuesday – 6:30 pm)

American Legion Hall on Swaney Road

Christmas Wreath Sale

Now – November 15<sup>th</sup>

\$20 and \$25.

Phone orders: 223-7721 (Mary)

**Wineries of Old Mission**

Macaroni and Cheese Cook-off

Saturday after Thanksgiving

Day of Giving – December 8

Winter Warm-up – January 19

Romancing the Reising – February 16

March Cellar Sale – March 8 and 9

**Holiday Bazaars and Fund Raisers**

“Beads for Life” – Unitarian Church – November 3

Dickens Christmas – First Congregational Church – November 3

Holiday Sale – Old Mission Peninsula Methodist Church – November 17

Old Mission Women’s Club Christmas Cookie Sale Fire Station No. 2

December 8 – 8 am to 1 pm

**Compactor Station Hours:**

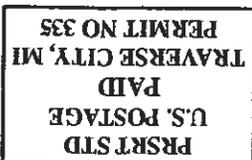
Wednesday, noon to 6 pm

Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm

Recycling at any time

**The Peninsula Township Office is open**

Monday through Thursday. Monday hours are 7:30 am to 6:30 pm. Tuesday through Thursday hours are 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. The Office is closed every Friday. The office also is closed on November 22 (Thanksgiving), December 24 (Christmas Eve Day), December 25 (Christmas Day), December 31 (New Year’s Eve Day), January 1 (New Year’s Day) and February 18 (President’s Day)



**NEWSLETTER**

