



NEWS FROM THE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR - This is the second edition of our Township Newsletter designed to share important news and information with property owners and residents of our beautiful township. We hope to issue this Newsletter three or four times a year so you will have timely information.

AS ANNOUNCED years ago, a sewer rate increase for Ontwa Township will most likely take effect March 1, 2015. The rate change was brought on by previously announced funding increases to upgrade the Elkhart Sewage Processing Plant. Needed environmental improvements required rate increases by Elkhart as follows: **27% increase January 2013; 7% January 2014; and 12% January 2015.** Through cost control, our Waste Water Board has recommended we increase rates by only 9%. This represents about a \$2/month increase for the typical home owner bill. This is the last of the previously scheduled rate increases from Elkhart.

HYDROGEN SULFIDE (H₂S) is a colorless, flammable, and extremely hazardous gas with a “rotten egg” smell. It can occur within a sewer system. We are making great progress with our sewer discharge H₂S requirements to Elkhart. We have been able to consistently meet the 5 ppm specification for H₂S in our discharge. There will be a series of tests conducted in mid February that should put this expensive and destructive problem behind us.

Our township website www.ontwatwp.org continues to expand and I strongly urge all township citizens to visit the site. We are trying to keep everybody aware of the happenings in your local government. Postings include all meeting minutes, job openings, upcoming events and topics of general interest for residents in Ontwa Township.

SPRING CLEANUP has been **tentatively scheduled** for the last weekend in April, Friday April 24 and Saturday April 25. As in the past, most items will be accepted free of charge. A fee will be imposed for tires and for the removal of Freon from air-conditioners and refrigerators. More information will be available closer to that date.

RECYCLING was mentioned at the last Board of Trustees meeting, and it was suggested the township considering a recycling center addition to the township hall property. The suggestion was well received and the cost is being investigated.

OFFICE HOURS of the township will remain 8am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday. The offices are closed for all government holidays. Generally we are closed if the Edwardsburg Schools are closed due to inclement weather.

John F. Bossler, Township Supervisor

ONTWA TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

SEWER EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER 269-445-1560

BE ACTIVE AND INFORMED ABOUT YOUR TOWNSHIP...ATTEND A MEETING SOON!

Township Board of Trustees

The Township Board meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeal tentatively meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Call the township to confirm the meeting (269) 663-2347.

Fire and Ambulance Boards

The Fire Board meets the first Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 pm with the Ambulance Board meeting immediately following at 7:30 pm. The meeting months are February, April, June, August, October and December.

Police Board

The Police Board meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Waste Water Board

The Waste Water Board meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Most board meetings are held at the Township Hall - 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI.

2015 BOARD OF REVIEW INFORMATION

Tentative equalization ratios and factors for 2015 are as follows:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Factor</u>
Agricultural	40.89%	1.2228
Commercial	51.25%	0.9756
Industrial	41.20%	1.2136
Residential	47.64%	1.0495
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of the March Board of Review.

The state-wide increase in Taxable Value is 1.6%