

Jonesfield Township 2019-2020 Winter Newsletter

Jonesfield.com

217 Eddy Street

Merrill, Michigan 48637

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TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

The community in which you live is organized under a township form of government. The administration is placed in the hands of the township board, comprised of the supervisor, clerk, treasurer and two trustees which you elect to office.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

The regular monthly meetings are held the third Monday of each month. From November through April the meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. From May through October the meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Come and participate in your township's business. These meetings and any changes are posted on the township office window bulletin board and on Jonesfield.com.

REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY

Assessments are completed by March of each year by the Board of Review (BOR). You may appeal your assessment to the BOR at the March meeting(s). Dates and times will be posted in the Saginaw News; on the township office bulletin board; and on Jonesfield.com.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE DROP BOX

For your convenience, a drop box is located just outside the township office door on the east side of the building (Eddy Street) for any items directed to the township.

TREASURER INFORMATION

Winter taxes and unpaid Summer Taxes are now due and payable through the 28th day of February. Summer taxes not previously deferred will be assessed interest and penalty. Checks or money orders can be mailed to the home of the Treasurer at 540 Doehring Street, P.O. Box 5, Merrill. **NO CASH PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Please send the bottom portion of your tax bill to the Treasurer and keep the top portion for your records.

The Treasurer will also be collecting taxes on the following dates at her home at 540 Doehring Street on:

Fridays -

December	13	1:00-5:00
December	27	9:00-5:00
January	10	1:00-5:00
January	24	1:00-5:00
February	14	1:00-5:00
February	28	9:00-5:00

You can also call for an appointment at 643-5255.

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 Tax payments after March 1st can no longer be accepted by the Township Treasurer, but must be paid, with penalty to the Saginaw County Treasurer's Office, Governmental Center, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Their Phone Number is 790-5225

DOG LICENSES

They may be purchased at the Treasurers home through February. Proof of vaccination, signed by a veterinarian is needed showing the vaccination date, it's expiration, breed and identification of dog.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Commission meetings will be held on the second Tuesday in 2020 in the months of January, April, July and October at 7:00 p.m. at the township office. If you are contemplating a change in the use of your property, consult Dick Bluemer, Chairman of the Planning Commission at 643-5211.

JONESFIELD-LAKEFIELD FIRE PROTECTION

In case of fire, call 911. Burn permits are available by calling 737-4920. There is no cost.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

If you are planning a new building, modification, plumbing or electrical change a township permit is needed and can be obtained from George Kipfmiller, Township Building Inspector at 860-5958.

Septic and well permits can be obtained at the Saginaw County Health Department, 1600 N. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw 758-3830.

JONESFIELD.COM

This newsletter and additional information such as meeting notices, agendas and minutes are available by visiting Jonesfield.com or by calling Larry Tibbits, Supervisor at 327-8831.

VOTING

Jonesfield Township has one precinct for voting, and it is at the township hall. Contact Marcia Stanley, Township Clerk to register to vote or for absentee voting information at 860-9117.

LIBRARY

Merrill District Library hours are: Monday and Wednesday, 11 to 6; Tuesday and Thursday, 11 to 4:30; closed Friday and Sunday; Saturdays (October to May) 11 to 1.

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

The hall is available to rent for weddings, parties, reunions, etc. For rental information contact Larry Tibbits at 327-8831 or by visiting Jonesfield.com for rates, contract, event calendar and sample setups.

2020 TRASH & TRASH + RECYCLING DATES

	<u>TRASH</u>	<u>TRASH + RECYCLING</u>
January	6, 20	13, 27
February	3, 17	10, 24
March	16, 30	9, 23
April	13, 27	6, 20
May	11, 26	4, 18
June	8, 22	1, 15, 29
July	6, 20	13, 27
August	3, 17, 31	10, 24
September	14, 28	8, 21
October	12, 26	5, 19
November	9, 23	2, 16, 30
December	7, 21	14, 28

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERVISOR

The Chapin Road bridge has been replaced and is now open to traffic. A ribbon cutting event was held on Friday, October 25 to celebrate the long-awaited completion of this project. Senator Ken Horn joined the event and thanked residents for becoming involved in writing letters of support and lobbying for the need to get this bridge funded.

New three-year recycling contracts are now in place with Waste Management and American Waste who provide trash and recycling services from their headquarters in Traverse City. Our township residents will see no change in service or schedule. Recycling products should continue to be clean and single stream no sorting remains as an easy way to recycle. Remember that plastic shopping bags are not recyclable and if allowable materials like newspapers, etc. are in a plastic bag in the recycling container, the bag and its contents go to the land fill.

Hazardous waste drop-off days will take place again in 2020 to properly dispose of household items like paint, unused lawn chemicals, Styrofoam and other hard to dispose of items. It is likely that eight events will be held again. In 2019, the eight events yielded 2.5 tons of waste each time. When the drop-off dates are available for next year, they will be posted on jonesfield.com or you can visit recyclemotion.org after the first of the year. The location for these events is the Mid Michigan Waste Authority offices at 2063 South Miller Road, Saginaw.

The 2020 United States Census is just around the corner with the U.S. Census Office sending out mailings by April 1. The purpose of the census is to count everyone living in our United States of America. The census is taken every 10 years, and this is the first time we can respond in one of three ways; online, by paper form or by calling a 1-800 number. In today's age of privacy protection, people are more hesitant than ever about sharing information.

Why is it important to be part of the county? The 2020 population numbers will shape how political power and federal tax dollars are shared in the U.S over the next 10 years. The number of congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state gets are determined by census numbers. They also guide how an estimated \$880 billion a year in federal funding is distributed for schools, roads and other public services in local communities. The demographic data are used by businesses to determine, for example, where to build new supermarkets and by emergency responders to locate injured people after natural disasters.

What happens we if chose not to respond? We can probably expect trained census door knockers by early April with proper identification to conduct solicit census interviews and then collect our responses. Not being big on door knockers myself, we will probably just fill out the census as soon as we can and wait for the results.

Finally, the 2020 election cycle next year fills all township board seats for the following four years. I will not be running for another term as township supervisor after serving four years as a board trustee and the last three years as supervisor. It has truly been an honor to serve with the board for this wonderful community. As I shared with the board at our last meeting, this community is blessed with qualified and dedicated residents that can step up and serve in the supervisor position.

You can contact Marcia Stanley, Jonesfield Township Clerk for the application forms to get on the ballot. The various deadlines for filing the application papers are:

- **By 4 p.m., April 21, 2020:** Candidates for partisan office (township office) file nominating petitions and Affidavit of Identity for August primary.
- **By 4 p.m., July 16, 2020:** Candidates without political party affiliation (not running in primary) file qualifying petitions and Affidavit of Identity for November general election.
- **By 4 p.m., July 24, 2020:** Write-in candidates file declaration of intent for August primary.

If you have any questions or concerns on any topic, I can be reached at 327-8831.

Thank you,

Larry Tibbits