

GLEN ARBOR TOWNSHIP

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Spring, 2004 ~~~ Volume # 7

OLD FIRE STATION

The future of the Old Fire Station remains uncertain due to the absence of resolution to the Cell Phone tower question. During the past few months, the property has been surveyed and alternatives studied. Alternatives under consideration continue to include sale as is, conversion of the space for Township storage, or possible demolition of the building and use of the property as green space for the community.

Communication with American Tower has been ongoing concerning their relocation plans. With the loss of personnel at American Tower, progress was stalled until recently, when staff again visited the area to investigate the alternatives available for their consideration. Ongoing progress reports are expected defining work underway to complete the relocation tasks. In the interim, the Township's attorney has been consulted on the matter and is helping guide the Township's actions and reactions.

GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING

The County is again coordinating efforts to eradicate the Gypsy Moths in the area. Initial estimates were that 800 acres would be sprayed this Spring at a cost to the Township of \$ 8,000. Subsequent calculations concluded that 1200 acres would be treated at a cost of \$ 12,000. Areas to be treated include the M-109 corridor from Boone Docks to the Park entrance, S. Lake Street from State Street to the Lake, M-22 South from Anderson's Grocery to Glen Lake, Day Forest Road from M-22 West, and a lengthy stretch of Dunn's Farm Road. Additional treatment will be in Empire Township as well as by the National Park Service in areas under their jurisdiction.

GLEN ARBOR ZONING AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The Zoning and Planning Commission took on a major project last August, the update of our 1984 township Master Plan. The purpose of the master plan is to set the personality of land usage in our community. It is mandated by law and used as a basis to enact zoning ordinance laws that control land usage. The State of Michigan recently enacted legislation requiring that a township review their master plan every five years.

The Commission discovered federal grant money available for communities located on the Great Lakes engaged in updating their master plans. A grant was presented and approved resulting in the expected receipt of \$ 28,500. This enabled us to seek professional help with this momentous task. Fortunately for Glen Arbor, we were able to retain Mark Wyckoff of the Planning & Zoning Center, Lansing, as the consultant. Mr. Wyckoff enjoys the finest reputation in the state for his work in this area. He is guiding us through the planning process on everything from gathering public input, through the writing of the document, and making sure all State and Federal requirements are fulfilled.

The final document should be completed in early 2005 for Township Board review and approval.

The Z & P has a special meeting about once a month just for master planning. To keep abreast of this process, public events, and meeting times, we have developed a temporary web site devoted to our master planning process. It contains special meeting/event dates along with much of the correspondence generated with our consultant. Please visit this site to learn about the master planning process:

<http://www.glenarbortownship.com/pzcomm/index.asp>

In other business the Z & P is currently looking into and addressing the problem of “bigfoot” which is a site placement issue of building large houses on small lots or close to a setback causing interference with neighboring views.

ROAD WORK FOR 2004

Based on recommendations from the Zoning and Planning Commission, the Township has requested that the Road Commission plan on paving Bay Lane during the coming months. As part of the planning process, a review of the paving plan will be shared with residents on Bay Lane in late May or early June. Additionally, MDOT has already staked M-109 from Boone Docks to the Southern intersection with M-22. The work, which will involve resurfacing M-109 and relining the road to reflect 11’ lanes, and 5’ shoulders, is scheduled to commence around the middle of June and take approximately one week to complete, all dependent on our Northern weather!

GLEN ARBOR BOAT RAMP

Our existing boat ramp and dock have been reinstalled on Lake Street. The completion of the new LeBear Resort is expected to bring increased traffic and congestion of vehicles on Lake Street. The Township has been working with the project developer, the County Sheriff and the Leelanau County Road Commission to minimize unnecessary parking and construction-related activity on Lake Street during the boating and fishing season. To date, parking for construction vehicles has been offered behind the Township Hall, and efforts have been made to encourage project staff to park at that location.

As part of the LeBear project, the end of Lake Street has received new curbs and is scheduled for repaving on or about June 7, 2004. This phase of the roadwork is anticipated to take approximately two days and will involve revising grades to improve surface drainage.

FUTURE BOAT RAMP STATUS

The Future Boat Ramp Committee has met with the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore and presented a position paper proposing a future boat ramp in the Glen Haven area. This proposal was supported by many organizations such as the Glen Arbor Fire and Rescue Department, the Michigan DNR and the U.S. Coast Guard. In concert with the Road Commission, the Committee proposed giving control of M-109 in the Glen Haven Village to the Park in exchange for an alternate bypass road to the water that would

include parking for the Village, and access to the water for a boat ramp and additional parking. This concept has appeared in previous NPS future plan alternatives, which are now considered void. The Park still does not accept that the Road Commission owns access to Lake Michigan on M-109, a matter to be resolved through completion of a title search. Meanwhile the NPS does not see adequate reason to consider a boat ramp in the Glen Haven area. While we are disappointed by their response, dialogue on this issue is expected to continue between the Township and the NPS.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICE

Under the direction of Chief John DePuy, the Township's emergency service program completed steps necessary to become licensed and operational as an Advanced Life Support Service. During January and February a Departmental team headed by Assistant Chief John Dodson assembled a comprehensive application, ordered necessary additional equipment, and prepared the ambulance for inspection and certification by the State of Michigan. As expected, all went according to plan. With two new paramedics having been selected with the assistance of North Flight, Inc, the service officially began in late February, and has been on numerous runs in both Empire and Glen Arbor Township since then.

With the completion of John Kenney's term as Chairman of the Emergency Services Advisory Commission, George Wilson of Empire Township was officially appointed as a member of the Commission in recognition of the importance of the relationship between both Townships in the Emergency Medical Services area. The Commission chaired by Stan Brubaker and including George Weeks, Bill Olson, and Bob Fehrmann are assisting with the planning for the official dedication of the Public Service Building scheduled for Saturday, July 31, 2004.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

During the Budget process, the issue of balancing revenue with expenses received a great deal of attention. Increases in Gypsy Moth spraying costs (up \$10,000 from last year), the anticipated costs for printing tax statements twice a year and assessment notices annually (approximately \$ 12,000), along with normal increases in operating expenses were discussed in detail. These cost increases coupled with a reduction in Revenue Sharing, led the Township Board to not approve proposed salary increases for the coming year. Subsequently, the County Board of Commissioners decided to postpone transferring the costs for tax statement and assessment notice preparation to the Township until next year. The Board is committed to tight monitoring of the Township's financial performance throughout the coming year.

FROM THE CLERK - ELECTION YEAR 2004

The Primary Election will be held on August 3, 2004 and the General Election will be November 2, 2004. The winners of the Primary Election will be the candidates for the General Election. The offices to be elected this year are Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and two (2) Trustee positions. And, there are five (5) Township Park Commissioners to be elected. All voting takes place in the Glen Arbor Township Hall from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Election Day. You must be registered to vote 30 days prior to Election Day. If you

are already registered you do not need to re-register. In order to receive an absentee ballot you must fill out an Absentee Ballot Application and file it with Bonnie Quick, Glen Arbor Township Clerk. Completed Ballots must be mailed or returned to the Clerk in person.

FROM THE TREASURER - SUMMER EDUCATION TAX

Summer collection of the State Education Tax (SET) will occur for the second time this summer. While the SET will be paid in the summer, early collection of the SET will not change the overall amount of property taxes paid this year. The SET equals approximately 34% of the total tax bill for Principal Residence properties and 18% of the total tax bill for Non-Principal Residence properties.

Summer bills will be sent out on July 1 and must be paid by September 14 in order to avoid any interest and penalty. Property tax payers may defer payment until February 14, without penalty or interest, if their household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$ 25,000, and they are 62 years of age or older, disabled, military or for certain agricultural property. Summer deferments must be applied for annually through the Township Treasurer's office.

Questions concerning SEV, taxable value, or Principle Residence status may be addressed to the Assessor at 231-334-3539 or search on www.leelanau.cc/glenarbortwp.asp