

The Vevay Voice

(517) 676-9523 phone www.vevaytownship.org
(517) 676-6655 fax 780 Eden Road
Mason, MI 48854

facebook.com/vevaytownship

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

.....
WELCOME SUPERVISOR JOHN LAZET!

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Many people this year asked me why property taxes are so high. For instance, my property tax bill increased by almost 20% this year, due in large part to the voters of Ingham County and the Mason School District (where I live) over the past two years approving seven tax renewals, increases, or a new millage.

By law, the Township collects real and personal property taxes for every governmental unit that levies a millage (Ingham County, schools) or an assessment (county drains, lighting districts). Some entities are only on your summer bill or your winter bill, and some are on both. Every year Vevay Township collects taxes and assessments for almost 50 purposes: the state education tax, Mason Schools and Dansville Schools tax as well as many special school millages, Ingham County, Potter Park Zoo, the Airport Authority, Farmland Preservation, 9-1-1, Animal Control, and more. Assessments are mostly based on geography and are not paid by every resident, and include over a dozen drainage districts, and three lighting districts.

By law, the Township levies 1.0 mill, and is allowed to assess a 1 percent administrative fee to pay the cost of collecting taxes for so many other entities. Of the over \$6 million collected by Vevay Township in 2019, \$200,377 (3.3%) was for the Township. If you would like a listing of the 50+ millages and assessments collected by the Township, send me an email. Please include "Property tax collections" in the title line.

John Lazet, Supervisor
supervisor@vevaytownship.org

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Disabled Veteran Exemption. If you are a veteran and are receiving disabled benefits because of your military service, you may be eligible for a property tax exemption. To be eligible the Department of Veterans Affairs must have determined the veteran is 100% disabled or is rated as unemployable due to military service. Disabled veterans should receive a summary of benefits letter from the VA. The benefits letter is usually mailed to veterans in November of each year. If you receive a disability benefit from the VA and have questions about a possible property tax exemption, please call me on Tuesdays.

Jeff MacKenzie, Assessor
assessor@vevaytownship.org

CLERK'S CORNER

2020 Elections Update: It was a monumental election cycle to complete all three 2020 Elections this year; the March Presidential Primary, the August Primary, and the November General Election. Let's begin by sharing some highlights from November's *historic* Election. First, Vevay Township residents are THE BEST! A BIG *thank you* to all Vevay voters; your patience and over-whelming positive attitudes were noticed and well received by the office staff, the Election Workers, and by me! YOU make Vevay a desirable place to live ☺

The massive voter turnout in Vevay was 74.76% (*historic!*); with 787 voting on November 3rd and 1,513 voting by absentee/mail-in ballot (*historic!*). The day began at 7 a.m. with 58 residents in line which continued throughout the day. At the 8 p.m. close, there were still 10 voters waiting (*historic!*). The shortest wait times ranged from 30 to 45 minutes with the longest times from 60 to 75 minutes. Sixteen of our military and overseas voters cast their ballots by 8 p.m. Election night (*historic!*). On Elections Day, 16 residents actually registered to vote with the required documentation and then cast their ballot (*historic!*).

A special shout-out to the Vevay team of Election Workers! This exceptional group executed the game plan, as always with integrity and skill, to create a successful election year. Lastly, it continues to be my privilege to serve as your Clerk as I have since 2010. *Thank you!*

**JoAnne Kean, MiPMC
Township Clerk**

clerk@vevaytownship.org

**Mary Ruttan
Deputy Clerk**

deputyclerk@vevaytownship.org

For Election Results visit: www.ingham.org

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR/
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

The Zoning Administrator deals with all types of land uses and the regulation thereof. As the Code Enforcement Officer also, David Vincent deals with property maintenance issues and blight. Dave is also the backup for the Building Inspector. He will be at the Township Office on Friday's and can be reached any day by leaving a phone message at 517-676-9523 or send an email.

David Vincent, ZA/Code Enforcement Officer
zoningadministrator@vevaytownship.org

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Winter taxes will be mailed out the last week of November and can be accepted for payment Dec. 1st, 2020. Winter taxes are due by **Friday, February 16, 2021**. After Feb 16th, a 4% penalty and interest will be charged. Summer and Winter taxes will be collected in the Treasurer's office thru March 1, 2021, after that date they will be turned over delinquent to the Ingham County Treasurer. Postmarks will not be accepted! Please allow *one week* for mailing payments. Partial Payments are always accepted. *We are encouraging the use of the townships "night drop" box to minimize the chances of in-person contact and to protect our taxpayers. Facemasks and social distancing will be required within the township hall.* If you are having difficulty paying your property taxes, please contact the County Treasurers office (517-676-7239) and they can provide you with assistance and resources. If a mortgage company is paying your taxes, you will also receive a copy of your tax bill with a highlighted notation in the upper right-hand corner that says *"a copy of your bill has been requested by your mortgage provider"*. A receipt will be mailed to you only if requested. If you do not receive a tax bill call my office and we will mail or email one to you.

As we have all been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic some difficult decisions will have to be made regarding the Townships Budget for next fiscal year. For anyone interested, Feb & March are the time of year the Board of Trustees works on the Budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. We encourage residents to participate in this governmental process. All meetings are open to the public and posted on the township's website. Come and see how your government works!

Shaun Sherwood, MiCPT - Township Treasurer
treasurer@vevaytownship.org

Debbie Blair, Deputy Treasurer
deputytreasurer@vevaytownship.org

**VEVAY TOWNSHIP BURNING PERMITS
ISSUED BY THE MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT
517-676-9155**

For large brush burning please contact the City of Mason for a burning permit. **Campfires are allowed without a permit (requirements: 3-foot ring, 2-foot-high and doused by midnight).**

Copies of brush burning regulations @ Township office or on website (www.vevaytownship.org). Unlawful burns could result in an unexpected visit from the Fire Department and an unwanted invoice.

WELCOME BACK TRUSTEE RICHARD LACASSE!

I am excited to begin serving my second term as your Board Trustee. The first term I focused on funding for roads, funding the pension system, establishing a Capital Improvement Program to repair and replace Township assets, and a host of policy updates. I look forward to another productive year in 2021.

A little of my background is important to understand a bit about my character. I was born and raised in a small rural agricultural community in the Upper Peninsula. Growing up I worked milking cows, making hay, planting crops and doing general farm labor. Since then, I have moved around both in and out of State finally settling in Vevay Township over fifteen years ago. I have lived longer in Vevay than anywhere else since childhood. Vevay is my home.

I am retired from the State of Michigan. Most of my time there I worked as an administrative law judge with the DNR/DEQ. With my education and experience I believe that I bring a unique set of valuable skills to the Board. With these skills, I promise the Vevay community that I will govern wisely and with common sense. I am looking forward to working for the residents of Vevay Township for another four years.

Trustee Richard Lacasse
trustee2@vevaytownship.org



WELCOME NEW TRUSTEE PATTIE MCNEILLY!

This will be my first term as a Board Trustee, and I am looking forward to working as a team with the four very experienced Vevay Township Board Members also elected in November, to develop a proactive approach to situations within the township. Being an effective representative of the township involves listening to resident's concerns and working together to achieve an outcome which is fair to all township residents. I believe the experience I have gained as a business owner and as a six-year member on the Vevay Township Planning Commission, have prepared me for this next chapter as a Vevay Township Trustee.

While the current COVID-19 pandemic calls for limited or no gathering in many situations, including governmental board meetings, I am hopeful that I will see many of you at a Vevay Township board meeting in the future.
Best Regards,

Pattie McNeilly
Trustee1@vevaytownship.org

