

Dear Montrose Township Resident:

As your Township Supervisor I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of the improvements and progress happening at the local government level.

We've come a long way! When I took office in May, 2005, Montrose Township had endured a five-year period during which several lawsuits depleted the general fund. These lawsuits also exhausted a large portion of Brent Run Landfill Impact Fund. It was definitely time for a new direction so the Montrose Township Board decided to establish a savings program (*in 2005*) which would accumulate a significant sum of money. These savings would be designated for future community improvement projects.



Before I discuss how money from the savings program has been used to benefit Township residents, I'd like to help everyone understand the way monies are spent on our road system in Genesee County. The Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC) is financially responsible for maintaining primary roads (*such as Elms, Seymour, etc.*). Local roads (*such as Duffield or Morrish*) are the financial responsibility of the Township. Typically, roads are funded through the State of Michigan Public Act 51 which generates monies through license plate renewals and a gasoline tax. I invite you to look closely at your property tax statement and notice that no millage money is collected for local road maintenance. I also call your attention to the fact that Montrose Township has a "Host Agreement" with Brent Run Landfill. This host agreement generates approximately \$700,000 (*Impact Fees*) per year for various projects, including road improvements, within the Township.

Highlights and projects Montrose Township is proud of:

- In 2010, the Township was awarded a Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant totaling approximately \$350,000. This Grant was used to further develop Barber Park. In order to obtain this grant the Township contributed approximately \$100,000 of Impact Fund Fees.
- In 2011, Montrose Township voters adopted the Mosquito Abatement program (*470 yes/245 no*). The Mosquito Abatement program (*two-thirds funded by the Landfill Impact fees and one-third funded by residents*) began on April 16, 2012, and has significantly reduced the mosquito population in the Township.
- In 2012, the Montrose Township Board approved the chip-sealing of 13.84 miles of paved local roads. They also approved installing three inches of limestone on 10 miles of unpaved local roads. In addition, various ditching and ditch-mowing projects were accomplished at an approximate cost of \$1,000,000. This money came directly from Montrose Township Impact Fees.
- In 2012, the Montrose Township Board approved the installation of a second park pavilion at Barber Park at a cost of \$64,000. Once again, this money came from the Montrose Township Impact Fund.
- In 2013, the Montrose Township Board approved and entered into agreement with Flushing Township for the repaving of Frances Road (*Elms to McKinley*). In addition, all paved roads were fog-sealed. Also, another 10 miles of limestone and ditching was performed on other Township roads at a cost of roughly \$800,000. This money came from the Montrose Township Impact Fund Fees.
- In 2014, the Montrose Township Board approved additional ditching at various Township locations and crack-sealing of paved local roads, along with 13 intersection approaches at a cost of \$400,000. This money also came from the Montrose Township Impact Fund Fees.
- In 2014, the Montrose Township Board agreed to build additional swings at the Barber Park playground at a cost of \$6,200. Once again, this money was generated by the Montrose Township Impact Fund Fees.

- In 2014, Montrose Township and Montrose School officials moved forward with the Seymour Road Multi-Use Bike Path Trail – This \$544,000 project was funded through various organizations.
 1. \$60,000- Jennings Memorial Foundation grant
 2. \$220,000 -Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Grant
 3. \$6,500- Montrose Schools
 4. \$257,500 Montrose Township (*Impact Fund Fees*)

Recently, the Montrose Township Board purchased 10 acres of the “old” Barber Farm (*north of the Barber Park entrance*). The Board is currently researching the opportunity to borrow monies from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) because of its low-interest (*currently four-percent*) governmental loan program designed specifically for building Public Safety and Administrative Offices for local units of government.

It is an exciting time for Montrose Township and soon you will be invited to two public hearings. The public hearings will inform you of the Township’s intent to borrow six million dollars from USDA. Take note, it is not our intent to spend six million dollars for the proposed new Public Safety/Administrative Complex. The bond attorney and the USDA suggested the borrowing number to be higher than needed. Architectural drawings and plans will be on display and your input and feedback is important. Creating a building that fits Montrose’s rural community atmosphere and yet serves the public in an efficient manner is definitely a goal. The Public Safety Administrative Complex will serve the Township for generations to come. I personally invite you to attend Township Board meetings (*held on the third Tuesday of each month*) and the upcoming public hearings to learn more about this exciting project.

If you’re wondering, “Why Montrose Township needs a new Public Safety/Administrative Complex” – let me help you recognize the benefit of such a mission. In the fall of 2013 the Township had a building and structural study performed on the existing 1968 pole barn-style Fire Department building and the portable, modular-unit Police Department building acquired from Montrose Community Schools almost two decades ago. The study was quite revealing. In order to refurbish and update the existing Fire Department and Police buildings to modern-day codes it will cost approximately \$3,000,000. These buildings are not energy-efficient and need multiple renovations. The Montrose Township Board reviewed the studies and determined it made more sense to build a new structure which will be more centrally located and better serve the community.

The best news about the proposed Public Safety/Administrative Complex is this project will **NOT REQUIRE ANY KIND OF TAX INCREASE**. With monies from the savings program established in 2005 the Landfill Impact fees will pay for this project without a millage or tax increase.

Now is the time to look ahead and support a building project such as this – because the Landfill has a 10-15 year life span it is possible the money will not be available in the future. The Montrose Township Board’s vision includes putting money down on this project and paying off the loan within 10 years – at the same time the Township will be able to generate enough money from Impact Fund fees to maintain and perform ditching on local roads on a yearly basis.

I invite you to stop by the Township Office to discuss any of the above and I invite you to attend upcoming public hearings and board meetings to learn more about how your local government is working for you!

Sincerely,

Mark Emmendorfer, Supervisor
Montrose Township