

## **First 45 days in office / Morton Township Board / January 5, 2009**

The new Morton Township Board was sworn in on November 20, 2008. It has been an exciting and rewarding experience. Several accomplishments have been attained that benefit the Township already.

1. A formal agreement has been reached with the Michigan State Police to keep a Community presence in Canadian Lakes for the foreseeable future. No such agreement was ever put in place in the past. A great working relationship has been established between the Board, the Reed City Post Commander, and the Troopers.
2. In person meetings with the Mecosta County Road Commission have been very productive. The County is interested in working with the Township on road construction and repair in 2009. The Supervisor and Road Commission Officials have agreed to meet regularly to plan for the projects.
3. A mutual aid agreement has been reached with the Mecosta County Emergency Medical Service to allow the Morton Township First Responders to respond to emergency medical requests to our neighbors just outside the Township limits. Re-imbusement will be received for this service. This should insure more prompt response to these emergencies. The prior Board had cancelled a similar agreement and left many county residents to rely on EMS services that came from further away response teams.
4. I have begun the Home Study course to become a State Certified Assessor. This will enable me to help area residents with their property tax questions and assist me at Board of Review times.
5. The Board cancelled construction of a fence at the industrial park at a savings of about \$2,000. The gates that had previously been ordered will serve to keep vehicles out of the area. Natural trees already in place will prevent vehicle travel off the road ways. Keep out signs will be put in place in the spring. The gates and fence were a response to some stolen trees. Large trucks entered the property and were used to remove some trees. There is civil action in place to recoup some losses for the Township.
6. The Board agreed to hold every other regular Board meeting in the evenings so that more people can attend.
7. Alan Metcalf was hired to evaluate our computer system.
8. An expensive floor buffer and shop vacuum were returned. They had been purchased for the new Fire Hall but were considered overkill for the needs. Restocking fees were waived.
9. All buildings in the Township are now smoke free.
10. Progress is being made to complete the new Fire Hall. We are looking to include a user friendly kitchen for community functions. We are looking to establish an Emergency Shelter at the facility. Federal grants are being pursued through the Federal Emergency Management Office. An Open House is planned for the spring.
11. The Township is following hearings in Lansing relative to another rate increase requested by Consumers Energy. The Michigan Township Association is opposed to this request. A hearing in Lansing has been set. More information will be released as it is received.
12. The Township hosted a community Christmas party after the first ever Mecosta Area Christmas parade for the area youth. Refreshments were served. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus were here to help in the celebration. The area youth and their families enjoyed the event.
13. The Board will be installing a Deposit / Drop box at the Township office to allow for after hours payment of taxes and absentee voting.
14. We are attempting to secure a Community Development Grant to purchase a ladder fire truck. The Township has been saving matching funds for this truck for a long time.

***Jim Quinlan***

Morton Township Supervisor