

# Chester Township Newsletter

3509 Sehler St., PO Box 115

Conklin, MI 49403

616-899-5544

mail@chester-twp.org

FEBRUARY, 2016

Fax 616-899-2937

## CALENDAR

February 8-Voter Registration deadline for March election  
February 8-Township Board Meeting  
February 15-Taxes Due  
February 22-Planning Commission Meeting  
March 1-Public Test of Election Equipment 10:15 am  
March 5-Office open for absentee voters 9 am-2 pm  
March 8-Election Day  
March 14-Township Board Meeting  
March 14 & 15-Board of Review  
March 28-Planning Commission Meeting

All meetings of the Chester Township Board or any township committees are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

## PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Assessment notices for 2016 will be mailed in early February. Please contact our assessor if you have questions about your assessment, or would like to make an appointment with the Board of Review.

If you have noticed an increase in either or both the Assessment and Taxable Values on your property, the following definitions should assist in giving you a better understanding into what they are and why they have increased.

**Assessed Value**-the assessed value as shown should represent 50% of the current true cash value of your property. As the value of your property and surrounding properties changes, the assessment of your property changes.

**Taxable Value**-the taxable value is the number that your property taxes are calculated on. It is the last year's taxable, multiplied by the Consumer Price Index (rate of inflation).

*Example-if last year's taxable was \$51,217.00 and the current CPI was 3.3% you would calculate this year's taxable as follows:  $\$51,217.00 \times 1.033 = \$52,907.00$*

Increases in either the taxable or assessed values will also occur when there is an alteration to the property.

Taxes are calculated by multiplying the millage rates against the Taxable Value.

**Uncapped**-when property changes hands, the taxable value is raised to the current assessed value. This action is a result of Proposal A which was adopted on March 15, 1994. Exemptions from this rule are available under certain conditions. Please contact the assessing office for more information.

**Principal Residence Exemption**-the Principal Residence Exemption (P.R.E.) status of a property is set for the year as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. This was formerly known as the Homestead Exemption. This means that this must be the property you occupy for your principal residence on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please check the percentage on your assessment notice or tax bill for accuracy. To qualify for a P.R.E. the home should be the address from which you register to vote, obtain a driver's license or file your income tax return.

**Board of Review**-Appeals by property owners regarding assessments and values will be heard by the Board of Review. Appeals can *only* be made at the March meeting of the Board. The goal in assessing property is uniform assessments and adherence to the statutes of

the State of Michigan. Property owners who are concerned about their assessments can make an appointment to meet with the Board of Review by calling the township office. If you are unable to appear in person, a letter may be sent. Check your assessment notice for more information.

This is only a short overview of this very complex process. If you would like more detailed information it is available by contacting the assessor's office.

## ELECTION NOTICES

**A recent bill passed by the Michigan Legislature limits the information that may be provided by Townships to their voters about millage proposals. Due to this legislation, we are unable to include details about a millage proposal that will be on the March 8 ballot. A sample ballot can be viewed on the Michigan Secretary of State's website.**

**Presidential Primary**-On Tuesday, March 8, 2016 there will be a Presidential Primary Election. As part of the process for this type of election, voters will be required to request either a Republican or Democratic ballot.

**Absentee Ballots**-If you are over 60 or permanently disabled, you may request to be put on a permanent list to receive an application for an absentee ballot. If your name is not on the permanent list, you may still request an application prior to each election. If you have any questions, or would like your name added to the permanent list, please contact the clerk's office.

For Presidential Primary elections, ballot applications include check boxes for you to designate your ballot selection of either Republican or Democrat. Please be sure you mark your application for your choice. Voters will also have the option to select a ballot that only includes a millage request and does not include any candidates.

## TAX PAYMENTS

February 15 is the last day to pay taxes at the Township office without paying an additional fee. The Treasurer will be in the office from 9:00 am until 6:30 pm. From February 16<sup>th</sup> until February 29<sup>th</sup>, taxes may still be paid at the Township office, but a late fee will be charged. The office will be open on the 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. After the 29<sup>th</sup>, tax collection will be turned over to the Ottawa County Treasurer and payments cannot be accepted at Chester Township.

A drop box is provided outside the Township office door for your convenience.

## SENIOR SERVICES

The North Ottawa County Council on Aging (NOCCOA) is now called Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging, but they are still providing the same services to seniors in our area.

A representative is available at the Township office on the second Wednesday of each month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. to help with any information or support needed by seniors or their families.

Their toll free number is 1-877-548-1507 to find out more of what assistance they can provide.

Supervisor-Gary Meerman

Township Officers:

Treasurer-Dianne Berenbrock  
Trustees-Troy Goodno & Ed Kelly

Clerk-Jan Redding

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Website: [www.chester-twp.org](http://www.chester-twp.org)