

MENOMINEE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

16 November 2011

Hall Phone # (906) 863-9410

Hello Township Residents and Property Owners:

Township boards, planning commissions and zoning boards of appeals make important decisions to guide the growth and development of their communities. Michigan has 83 counties, 534 cities and villages, and 1,240 townships, all of which have the option to adopt planning and zoning. The state is also divided into 14 regional planning areas. Each region has its own advisory planning commission that offers local governments technical assistance with their planning and zoning needs. There is no state-level planning or zoning oversight.

State laws authorize Michigan townships to provide planning and zoning services in their communities. The majority of townships have a zoning ordinance and/or a master plan. Our township's Planning Commission has completed a draft master plan. After the Twp Board reviews the draft for distribution at the 8Nov11 special meeting it will go to the Planning Commission & CUPPAD for adjustments. It then is re-presented for township board distribution approval at our next regular meeting and should be out for public comment in draft format unless there have been serious flaws identified. It's a plan so it's a continuous work-in-process document. There is a 63 day draft master plan review period before a public hearing is set and it is adopted.

What is the Master Plan - you ask??? It is a compilation of data, information, and statistics of our township as well as information comparisons from our surrounding communities. A master plan is an official township document that establishes a 20 year vision – a tool – an outlook to serve our township for future development. It includes input from the community and sets goals for future land use decisions. It attempts to balance township growth with community character. A Master Plan.....

**** Promotes wise use of local resources**

**** Provides consistency in decision making**

**** Preserves township character**

**** Helps protect property values**

**** Preserves future choices**

**** Helps achieve orderly growth and development**

**** Helps reduce government spending**

**** Provides a legal defense for zoning decisions**

At the date of publishing this newsletter - these are the goals set in the Master Plan (draft):

- 1) Continuously monitor population trends and opportunities to retain population density in the township and surrounding areas as part of the Master Planning process.
- 2) Improve the existing economic base in the township and make an effort to attract new businesses.
- 3) Develop a varied housing stock that meets the needs, preferences and financial capabilities of a diversified population.
- 4) Maintain and improve recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.
- 5) Provide a safe, well maintained and efficient multi-modal transportation network.
- 6) Provide, maintain and improve the quality and efficiency of community facilities and services in a cost-effective manner.
- 7) Preserve and enhance the natural setting of the township, while allowing for compatible development to occur at suitable sites.
- 8) Establish land use patterns that maintain the character and health of the township.

Once this plan is adopted, the Planning Commission uses it for zoning decisions. The community wants minimal zoning/restrictions which are identified in our character, but there are some areas where public response was pro zoning. There is always finding that happy medium in the decision making process. The public through the Township Board still makes the final decisions.

The Township Board will use the goals in the master plan as a guide to feed into a shorter term planning period. The 5-year plan is our Twp Board's 4-yr term strategic plan, which looks closer at what is required to be accomplished in fewer years. Priorities are set by the board and some goals may fall beyond 4 years. Those that will take longer or are restricted due to current available funds will be identified and worked in as time moves forward. The strategic plan includes the statutory responsibilities assigned to the township board as well as the administrative functions. We have had some longer range planning take place in the area of road repair and maintenance because this is one of our "priority issues". Near term planning happens at our budget meetings and sometimes no matter how hard you plan; something unexpected bumps into the plan that needs to be resourced. So a plan is a plan - and plans change. Unexpected damage to roads is one of those high cost repairs in Michigan that can be very unpredictable. We did get 3-way Road Program money this year (\$43685.00) that helped pay for part of western number nine road's ¾ mile of blacktop and helped push forward the number 6 road patch, so we came out ahead on our plan.

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Last newsletter we mentioned the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and adopting the FEMA maps. The Township Board must adopt the new maps via an admin ordinance so that flood plain residents can continue to receive the rates. We want to ensure we remain properly enrolled in NFIP as a service to our community. You can expect the public posting of this ordinance in the next couple of months and the flood plain maps are available for viewing.

Hours - The Clerk is the FOIA and Election coordinator and may be reached at his home or you may contact him by mailing the Township Hall at N2283 O-1 Drive. Most Wednesdays the Deputy Supervisor holds hall hours from noon until 4pm or can be reached at home on other days. On Mondays and Tuesdays the Assessor has hall hours from 4pm to 7pm. It is best to call ahead and make an appointment. The Treasurer's hall hours are posted on bulletin boards at the hall, on the website, and on the tax bills. He also is available to meeting other times per phone arrangements. The Trustees will hear public issues/concerns as well if you call them and bring those issues/concerns to board meetings.

For continuous improvement we need public comment and feedback from the residents and land owners. Feel free to join in for public comment at the Planning Commission meetings and Township Board Meeting at the township hall or just give us a call. December 2011 the Planning Commission meets on Dec 6th and the Twp Board meets on Dec 28th.

Website if you have Internet: www.menomineetownship.com

Menominee Township Board Mission – Vision - Values – 2011/12 (Strategic Plan – Work in Progress)

Mission Statement: “The Mission of the Menominee Township Board is to work together to perform the statutory mandated functions of assessment administration, election administration and tax collection. The board with public voice will also plan and provide other permissive functions to support and protect the needs of the local public. The board is responsible for maintaining the township's fiduciary health.”

Vision Statement: “To sustain an economic base sufficient to draw and keep families in the area; to provide good infrastructure; to provide tax incentives when available to businesses; and to enhance our natural resources for our residents' enjoyment.”

Standards of Conduct: “The township board, contracted public officials and employees will conduct themselves in accordance with policy letter MTR-02-2010. Values established for the township board are Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Service and Collaboration in order to function smoothly.”

Priority Issues: “Maintaining the Fire Department, Maintaining our Roads, Maintain Our General Fund Balance, Develop our Natural Resources”

Goals: Besides the Goals for improving each of the three statutory functions of the township operation, we also want to prioritize the goals and recommendations set forth in the Master Plan to continue to provide improved services to the township. We want to maintain public safety, increase the quality of life, increase our economic strength and still maintain our financial stability.

Objectives: Objectives will be listed under each goal that will help attain the goal. Under each objective, an “Action Plan” will be developed to identify who is responsible person who will oversee that objective item/project, what is to be done, when the work starts, expected/estimate completion date, estimate cost, time commitment, and available approved resources. Plan Categories:

1. Personnel & Administration. (Written documents need improvement - all board members are subject to assisting in formulating policy)
2. Election Administration (Gain the education on future upgrades handled by the state and continually seek improvements)
3. Property Assessment. (We are looking into *Digital Mapping* to enhance assessment administration)
4. Tax Collection Administration and Investments. (Explore Electronic/Automated Accounting Systems to improve that process)
5. Security, Communications and Publications. (Public safety issues - Also written newsletter, web designs/postings help keep the public informed)
6. Road Maintenance. (Continue to look forward to get work done in Menominee Twp - Explore the “Complete Roads” Program)
7. Joint Municipal Operations (Joint Fire Services & Transfer Station w/ Ingallston and Proposed future shared Utilities w/city of Menominee)
8. Resourcing, Finance Management and Budget Management. (Focused on resourcing what is in the approved 4-5 yr plan)
9. Enforcement Activities. (Ordinances need to be enforced - explore how to do it and assign responsibility)
10. Planning Commission Recommendations (Master Plan – Economic Development, see preceding goals - prioritize).

Enjoy the Holiday Season. Respectfully Submitted - Menominee Township Board of Trustees

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