

3-29-2008

2007 was a good year for the township.

The board continued to upgrade and maintain the hall and grounds. At the hall, humidifiers were installed, the outside was painted and sealed, the dead & dying trees were removed, the bathrooms were repainted and redecorated, and new appliances were purchased for the kitchen. The Veterans Memorial Tree has been a very much appreciated and admired addition to the hall. It is a fitting tribute to the men and women who have served our country.

On the grounds and parks, more dead trees were removed. The parking lot at the wayside park was fixed and repaved and a small pavilion was added.

At the cemetery, an edger was purchased and used a lot to make ready the driveway for seal coating. A couple trees were removed and a new hand pump was installed.

The big news is that after many years of thinking and planning, the Menominee - Ingallston Fire Station was built. It is truly awesome compared to the old one. I'm sure all the firefighters appreciate the added space to work in. The new fire station is a great example of the good things that can happen when people and townships work together in a spirit of cooperation. I think we all can be proud of our accomplishment.

Road work consisted of: reconstruction of Twin Creek Road, major patch work done on Sobieski, Birch Creek Road E to Range Line was resurfaced, and 38<sup>th</sup> Ave and River Drive were reconstructed. An experiment with recycled blacktop was done on N -2 Lane, which so far, looks very good. If it comes through spring breakup well, there are several other roads where this type of process should work.

Other things that are happening:

We successfully applied for and received a DEQ Grant to clean up a major hazardous waste site.

We applied for but were not accepted for a DNR Grant for the park behind the hall. We have applied again for 2008 and hopefully, the 2<sup>nd</sup> time is the charm.

In September, we got our website up and going.

Last summer, we initiated a pilot program, for people who live within a certain proximity to a landfill, to make available to them a well water test at no charge. I felt we had a good response with about 80 households taking advantage of the offer.

And finally, a safety grant through the state of Michigan has been filed for a new bridge/culvert on Fairland Loop Road. Hopefully, that will be accepted for work done in 2009.

Yes, 2007 was a good year and a busy one. But, there is still much more to do. Fire protection and roads will still be my main priorities, as reflected in our 08-09 budget.

I am seriously considering putting an advisory question on the ballot this fall concerning a catastrophe fund. While it is true no board can predetermine another boards actions, if a majority of the people voted in favor of this, I would think the vote of the people should dictate future board decisions concerning this fund.

I am also investigating the formation of a planning commission. I feel the benefits and protections far outweigh the restrictions. I am aware that this topic is not exactly mundane in the township. That is why I will ask the board if it would be their consensus to also put this question to the voters this fall in a referendum. Between now and November, this board can hold meetings and put forth information so the voters can be aware of the facts.

My goal this year is identical to last year, to collectively focus our time and talents, not only on the business at hand, but, on strategic planning, trying to identify and avoid problems before they become problems.

Let's make 2008 even better than 2007.

Respectfully submitted

Ken Goffin  
Menominee Township Supervisor