

How Fast Time Flies,

December 2024

Once again, I cannot believe that another year has come and gone as fast as it has. I welcome this opportunity to update you all on some of the current and past happenings within the township.

In the informational letter last year, I mentioned that the Zoning Restructuring Committee was working on the new Zoning Ordinance for the township. I am happy to report that they are very close to completing their task. The committee has met with a representative from Wood County monthly and beyond to establish an ordinance that is going to be extremely beneficial for the town. We are fortunate to have dedicated members on this committee, as it has been very time-consuming for them to undertake this task. There will be public informational meetings for those residents interested in the changes and updates prior to the ordinance being enacted. The assistance and guidance received from Wood County Planning and Zoning is at Zero Cost to the Township, as the Representative was selected prior to Wood County establishing a fee of \$7500.00 for these services.

In April of 2024 we received confirmation that we were awarded funding to construct the roadway south of the "Crooked Bridge" also known as Fairhaven Ave. Estimates to construct the roadway to township standards including engineering costs were \$195,000.00. The Town was awarded a 90/10 grant in the amount of \$136,500.00 for this project and construction will most likely take place in 2025. The remaining balance will be split evenly between Rock, Wood County and Clark County as it is a bordering road. Lynn Township is not included in the cost sharing as Rock Township receives compensation for State Road Tax. This will put the final cost to the Township for both the bridge and roadway projects at approximately \$50,000.00. The complete cost for these combined projects was more than \$960,000.00

Wood County Highway was contracted to replace the small bridge on Eagle Road south of MacArthur this summer, as the bridge had begun to deteriorate. The water was unable to flow effectively causing roadway washouts and a new structure was inevitable. A "bottomless Arch" structure that has been recommended by the DNR was placed as it allows the water to pass under the road utilizing the stream bed without any disruption to the natural flow. This project was completed through a 50/50 cost sharing Bridge Aid Grant we received in 2023.

The Town Hall now has an automatic generator installed. If we have a power failure the generator will start after ten seconds of power loss. It will restore electricity to the entire building and ensure that all appliances are operational if needed. This ensures that the Town Hall can be utilized as an emergency shelter if a disaster occurs.

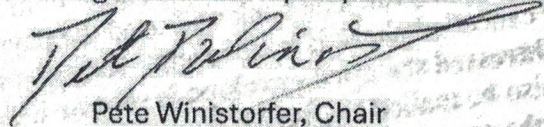
I am sure that you may have noticed some different tactics toward roadway maintenance this year. We have begun to reclaim some of the granite on a few roadways to try and keep our maintenance costs to a minimum. Some of the granite roadways have been washing out on hillsides due to the increased amounts of large rainfalls. To reduce this, we are "cutting" the ridge leading to the ditch line and working that material back into the roadway. It becomes a lengthy process to complete and the board appreciates the patience of the residents affected by the inconvenience.

I received phone calls from residents inquiring about the timeframe for mowing the tall grass in the ditches. The initial ditch mowing is usually performed in late June to ensure that the grass doesn't regenerate as soon as it is cut. Cutting earlier than that allows the seeds to take hold and within a month the ditches have become unmanageable again. I would like to state that neighboring townships have informed your board on "how good your ditches and intersections are." It may seem as though nothing is getting accomplished, however, there is reasoning behind every decision made, whether it be snow removal or other maintenance.

Please make sure to check your garbage and recycling calendars included in your taxes as there is a change in pickup dates. Garbage will still be weekly on Tuesday, but recycling will be once a month on Wednesday. This change comes from Advanced Disposal and not the Township.

If there are any residents interested in serving your Township on either committees or board, please do not hesitate to contact any one of the Town Board members. The Fire Department is steadily growing but can always use new members as well. Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm and everyone is encouraged to attend. I know that everyone has busy schedules, however, please consider taking time to serve. A Township is only as strong as its residents.

Looking Forward to a prosperous and healthy 2025.



Pete Winistorfer, Chair

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