



April 2025 “In the Loop” Monthly E-Newsletter from Dexter Township

Single Hauler Project – submitted by Trustee Karen Nolte

It has been brought to my attention that misinformation has been posted on local Facebook pages regarding this project. I want to take this time to update all residents on what is occurring in terms of the single hauler trash provider project. It's important for residents to know that no final decision has been made and there will be several more opportunities for community feedback before the Township board takes any action.

First, this topic is not new to our township. It was mentioned in our 2023 Master Plan and in early 2024 we held a coffee chat inviting residents to share their support and or concerns. The feedback was positive and gave us a list of suggestions from our residents. In March 2024 we posted a survey on the Township's website and had approximately 600 responses. 80% showing support for the project and 13% stating they would not like to enroll in such a program. Following input from our residents, we began developing an RFP (Request for Proposal) to solicit bids from vendors. With the election in November 2024, the project was put on hold due to a possible change in Board members and focus. Following the election, the RFP was finalized and sent to trash providers in February 2025. We had four vendors submit their bid proposals. At this time, we are speaking with the vendors and in conversation and working out details for such a program.

We started this project by outlining our goals and we continue to work to meet as many as possible. Goals included:

- Lowering costs
- Providing better services to residents
- Reduced congestion and other transportation improvements
- Lowering road maintenance costs
- Environmental quality
- Extending landfill life in Washtenaw County and Michigan
- Improving the appearance of roadways and recreational parks
- Increasing public safety

The program is outlined to be an “opt in” service with the homeowner establishing an account with the provider themselves, there are not any mandates that each resident must utilize the trash, recycle, or yard waste services and the township will not be financially

involved in paying the provider. We are seeking a 5-year term contract, with prearranged yearly increases.

We do not wish to rush this decision, as it will have an impact on the majority of our community. Hence, we are working through many issues of concern to best meet our goals and assist our residents. There will be additional townhall meetings prior to contract selection and/or finalization and should we move forward, many coffee chats to help residents through an implementation period. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly at either knolte@dextertownshipmi.gov or info@dextertownshipmi.gov – Thank you.



Protecting our Waterways – note of the month – submitted by Sue Bade in connection with Huron River Water Council

Spring is often when people start up their lawn care routine. Omit phosphorus run-off, decrease use of lawn fertilizer, and, if used, choose only phosphorus-free kinds, with a zero-phosphorus number in the middle. If you want more information, please feel free to reach out.

Short Term Rentals Committee – submitted by Trustee Karen Sikkenga

I attended the March 30 meeting of the Short-Term Rentals Committee because Trustee Abbott was absent and I am the alternate. The Committee hopes to have its recommendations to the Planning Commission by end of April. The committee is requesting recommendations from DAFD on fire inspections and fire infrastructure, on certain liability issues from the township attorney, and on certain planning issues from our Director of Planning and Zoning. Overall, the committee is progressing through this complex topic.

Information from the Clerks Report (Clerk Michelle Stamboulellis)

During last month's March 18, 2025 meeting the Board of Trustees voted and passed the Townships 2025/2026 yearly budget. I contacted our auditor Rana Emmons, PSLZ, to schedule our yearly audit for budget year 2024/2025. The date of the Township audit is scheduled to occur on May 13, 2025, those present will be the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and our accountant Kimberly Haines.

The Clerk's office had 2 FOIA's that were received to the Clerk's office to report on for the month of April. The Clerk's office continuously receives FOIA requests for a variety of

reasons. I am an advocate of the Freedom of Information Act and value this great service for transparency purposes but believe we should have a FOIA fee schedule policy. Since certain FOIA's can be more involved than others, there are many times I must request assistance from other departments in the office along with Dexter Township's legal counsel. I spoke with Supervisor Scott regarding my concerns about the cost involved in producing a FOIA request. I am looking forward to continuing this discussion at a future Board of Trustees meeting about adding costs (if necessary) to the FOIA Requestee, so our tax paying residents are not burdened with a single individuals request that doesn't benefit the community collectivity.

Dexter Township residents in the Dexter School District – Don't forget to Vote in the Special Election on May 6th, on the Dexter Community Schools bond millage. Updated information is available on the Dexter Township website.

Fall Clean Up Day:

Another annual Fall Clean Up Day is set for Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 9am – noon. Mark your calendars – we will collect:

- Electronic waste
- Old tires
- Scrap metal
- Styrofoam
- Document shredding

Dexter Township Office Administrator Report - submitted by Samantha Edwards, April 15, 2025

Warning Siren Upgrades

Dexter Township's warning siren maintenance provider, West Shore Services, has completed the installation of the new federal signal universal controllers for all 16 warning sirens as of April 2025. This upgrade allows Washtenaw County to directly trigger the emergency sirens and enables future integration into the county's two-way monitoring system. As part of the project, the warning siren monitoring system at Fire Station #2 will be dismantled as to not create any potential confusion or communication issues. Later in the month, Supervisor Scott and I will be getting a tour of the county's Emergency Operation Center and Metro Dispatch with Emergency Operations Manager Ben Pinette. Finally, if you want to receive direct alerts regarding inclement weather, please sign up for the Everbridge app by going to <https://www.washtenaw.org/1540/Emergency-Management> or download the Everbridge app via the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

Open Board and Committee Appointments

Individuals interested in applying for an open appointment should send a letter of interest to Samantha Edwards via email to officemanager@dextertownshipmi.gov or by mail to 6880 Dexter-Pinckney Rd., Dexter, MI 48130. Submittals must be received by 4:00 pm on Monday, May 5, 2025. Letters of interest received after May 5, 2025 at 4:00 pm will be kept on file for future consideration.

The open positions are:

Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board (FOSP): The Dexter Township Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board (FOSP Board) is seeking membership for a regular appointment. Specific objectives of the FOSP Board include acting as a conduit between Dexter Township residents and the Board of Trustees regarding community needs and expectations related to land preservation, advising the Township Board on land preservation policies and programs, exploring land preservation funding options, and supporting special projects and collaborations between landowners and available land preservation programs. The FOSP Board is a 3-year term, however this particular position will go until the end of 2025 (12/31/2025) and will carry an option for an appointment renewal. The FOSP Board meets at Dexter Township Hall (6880 Dexter-Pickney Rd, Dexter) on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. To apply, please send a letter of interest to officemanager@dextertownshipmi.gov by Monday, May 5th.

Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express Board (WAVE):

The WAVE Board is seeking membership for a Dexter Township representative. The WAVE Board oversees the organization's operations and strategic direction. Topics of discussion include service operations, financial oversight, and community engagement. The WAVE Board currently meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 9:30am to 11:00am at Scio Township Hall (827 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor) and the option for joining the meetings via ZOOM is an option. New WAVE Board members will have an onboarding session with Marie Gress, WAVE's Executive Director, to get caught up on financials, recent discussions, WAVE services offered, etc. The appointment term for the WAVE Board would be 3 years, with the opportunity for an appointment renewal. WAVE is a 501©3 non-profit. For more information on this position, please contact Marie Gress at mgress@wavebus.org or at (734) 475-9494. To apply for the position on the WAVE Board as the Dexter Township rep., please send a letter of interest to officemanager@dextertownshipmi.gov by Monday, May 5th at 4:00pm. Qualified applicants must be registered to vote in Dexter Township.

Dexter Township Supervisor Report - April 15, 2025 by Supervisor Lonnie Scott

Welcome Our New DPZ

We have completed the hiring process for a new Director of Planning and Zoning. I am pleased to announce that Fletcher Reyher started as our new Director of Planning and Zoning March 10th. Fletcher has a wealth of experience and came to us from Ypsilanti Township, where he quickly worked his way up in their planning department. Please also join me in thanking Michael Boetcher for his work in an interim capacity over the past few months. Michael served Dexter Township residents well in his time with us and we wish him the best.

Project Coordinator Position

We will start the process for hiring the Project Coordinator in April. We will follow a similar process as what we used to hire our Director of Planning and Zoning earlier this year.

MTA Conference:

I attended the Michigan Township Association conference in Grand Rapids the first week of April. During the conference I attended several education sessions, spoke with potential vendors and networked with Township leaders from around the state. These conferences offer a great opportunity to hear from Township leaders and experts and to bring back ideas and programs to Dexter Township. I strongly encourage all board members to begin planning now to attend the MTA conference next year if possible.

DAFD Reports

You will notice in this packet that DAFD has changed their run reports to no longer include specific addresses. This decision was made to protect the privacy of residents. Address details are still supplied to the individual municipalities so we can monitor but will no longer be included in the public packets. Please let myself or Trustee Sikkenga know if you have any questions

Full reports on WWRA, Farmland & Open Space Preservation Board, Dexter Area Fire Department, Zoning and Planning are in the April Board Packet on the Dexter Township website.

Watch your mailbox – the Dexter Township Newsletter will be mailing soon to all homes in our township. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to any of the 7 Board members.

Enjoy Spring!