

JUNE 2025 – Dexter Township e-newsletter “in the loop”

Dear Residents,

We are excited to let you know that Dexter Township’s e-newsletter, In the Loop, will now be sent using a new marketing service called Brevo. This change will help us improve delivery and ensure you receive timely updates from the Township. Going forward (starting in July 2025) In the Loop will be emailed out roughly one week after each regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting via Brevo. If you do not receive your In the Loop e-newsletter by the end of July, please check your spam or junk folder. If you still do not see it, please contact us at info@dextertownshipmi.gov so we can make sure you’re on the list. Thanks for staying connected with Dexter Township!



SHORT TERM RENTAL

Discussions continue on whether to allow short-term rentals (STR) in Dexter Township through our Planning Commission. To share your thoughts, concerns, or opinions, please attend a meeting, or email either a Planning Commission member (list on Dextertownshipmi.gov website) or info@dextertownshipmi.gov and your email will be forwarded to the proper people

The Dexter Township Planning Commission will be holding a **public hearing on July 22, 2025 at 6:00pm at Dexter Township Hall** to amend the Zoning Ordinance to define and allow Short-Term Rentals (STRs) as a permitted use in specified zoning districts, to reference applicable STR regulations, and to establish related parking and permitting standards **OR** to define STRs and allow STRs in compliance with the regulations established for Bed and Breakfasts.

SINGLE HAULER PROJECT

Last month the subcommittee recommended the Board enter into conversation with Waste Management (WM) to become the possible single trash hauler allowed to operate within the Township. **On July 10th, we will host another Coffee Chat to explore the Q&A’s of this topic, 6pm at Dexter Townhall.** The subcommittee continues with its negotiations and conversations to address contract details. We hope to receive an updated draft contract soon to begin more in-depth review processes. Goals of this project include: reducing costs to our residents, reducing garbage truck traffic on our roads, improving curbside services, all while working to protect our environment. This initiative falls under the Good Government, Environmental Stewardship, and Community Enrichment pillars of our strategic plan. ***This will impact every household in our***

township utilizing curbside trash. Please join us at the coffee chat for more information or send your questions to info@dextertownshipmi.gov.

Dexter Township Supervisor Report June 17, 2025

Station 2 Repairs

I met with Assistant Chief Gaggi at Station 2 to review some repairs needed for the building. We have worked to schedule contractors to give us estimates for the repairs. Once we have those estimates I will bring them to the board for review. One item, gutter cleaning and inspection, is already being scheduled under our standard maintenance and per the lease agreement.

Community Engagement

Given the challenges we have had with outdoor movie night and unpredictable weather, I am looking at a new community engagement event to replace it. I will have more information at a later date but wanted to flag that at this time we aren't likely to host outdoor movie night in August as we have in years past.

Budget Variance

We are currently 16.7% elapsed in the FY 2026 Budget, and there are no identified areas of concern based on current spending. We will continue to monitor as changes, like healthcare, are implemented in case we need to recommend any budget amendments.

Dexter Township Office Administrator Report June 17, 2025

Township IT Company Update

We will be transitioning to a new IT services provider, BlackRock Technologies, over the next few months. Black Rock, headquartered in Ann Arbor, has been highly recommended by several municipalities and offers more competitive pricing for equipment and on-site support rates than our current provider, Vector Tech Group. Although BlackRock's monthly service fee is slightly higher, their overall cost structure, particularly for hardware support, BS&A support, and implementation, represents a more cost-effective and sustainable solution for the Township's current needs.

As part of this transition, the Township will be upgrading critical tech infrastructure, including replacement of our aging server and several workstations. All systems will also be migrated from Windows 10 to Windows 11 to ensure continued security, compatibility, and performance.

The offboarding process with Vector and the onboarding with BlackRock will begin in the upcoming months. Additional details and updates will be shared with the Board in coming months as the transition progresses. All board, committee, and commission members will be kept informed to ensure a smooth and coordinated implementation.

Brevo Implementation for Dexter Township E-Newsletter

We have decided to move forward with Brevo to streamline our communication with Dexter Township residents. Brevo has affordable pricing, strong privacy protection, an easy-to-use interface, and is a great option for small to mid-sized government agencies. Brevo will be used to send Dexter Township's e-newsletter "In the Loop" to residents. The overall goal with Brevo is to establish a more structured and efficient communication system with residents, ensuring they receive updates on township news, community engagement, and important notices. Currently, our contact database includes almost 2,000 email subscribers who receive communications from the Dexter Township "Info" email account. Using Brevo instead of Outlook will help us better manage our e-newsletter and general township alerts, as well as automate certain functions such as subscriber sign-ups, handling bounce notifications, and opt-out requests. The transition to Brevo will help Dexter Township's communication with residents be more organized and will provide email subscribers with a more user-friendly system. This new process will begin in the month of July 2025.

Dexter Township Clerk's Report June 2025, highlights

At the May 20, 2025 BOT meeting the Board unanimously voted in favor of enacting a Health Care Group Plan policy to all full-time staff and part-time staff which includes the Elected Officials (Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer) and their dependents. This has been an initiative that township officials have been working on for the last 4 years. Offering health insurance to employees and elected officials provides numerous benefits for both the Township and its workforce:

- Enhances employee retention
 - Improves morale
- Fosters a healthier and more productive work environment
- Aids in attracting talent
- Shows that we, as a Township, care about our employees' health and well-being
- Strengthens employee loyalty

The yearly 2024 audit is still in a TBD state due to the delay from the Washtenaw County Treasurers office completing the Dexter Township Tax settlement. When the settlement is completed, the Clerk's office will schedule our State Audit.

Election Status:

The Clerk's office is currently working on the reimbursement forms for the May 6, 2025 Dexter Community School Special Election. Due to the election being on an odd year election year the school is responsible for the reimbursement for all the election costs accrued to run the in person voting process and the absentee voting process. All the documentation will be sent to Washtenaw County, from there the Washtenaw County Clerk's Office will settle with Dexter Community Schools and will refund all election expenses to Dexter Township.

Dexter Township uses Hart Ballot Tabulators. We invested in 8 machines – we have 3 tabulation machines for all three of our precincts for in person voting, we have 2 Tabulators for our Absentee Voting Counting Board, we have 2 touch writers (handicapped voting tabulators) and one back up tabulator. Every two years, the voting contract in Michigan requires the Hart vendors to perform preventative maintenance on all precinct devices. This year, Hart is also deploying a software upgrade on all precinct devices. The upgrade is performed on multiple devices at the same time, which helps expedite the process. We are planning on having Hart service all of our Tabulators and Touch Writers, Tuesday, July 8, at 10am so our machines are prepared for the upcoming 2026 Elections.

The full report from The Planning & Zoning Department is located in the Board of Trustee packet for your review.

This report includes a full list of Planning Activities, Zoning Administration, Zoning Ordinance, Code Enforcement actions and other community development project status. We appreciate our Direct of Planning & Zoning (Fletcher Reyher) for his complete report and keeping us in the loop on the buildouts and changes in our township. Thank you!

Summary of Actions from the Board of Trustee Meeting held June 17, 2025

The Consent Agenda highlights approval included:

- The Fireworks Display application for North Lake, scheduled for July 5th with a rain date of July 6th if needed
- An updated Planning Fee Schedule
- Scheduled a special meeting for August 12th at 6pm - public hearing from Short Term Rentals

- Schedules a special meeting for August 27th – 6-9pm for holding a Strategic Planning Session
 - Cancelled the regular Board of Trustee meeting, previously scheduled for August 19th. Important actions required will be handled on August 12 or 27th
- The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the Farmland and Open Space Boards recommendation to execute the purchase agreement for a conservation easement on the Esch north property. It features 83 acres of prime and locally important agricultural soils, 28 acres of high-quality woods adjacent to the UM Stinchfield Woods, and 3 acres of quality wetlands. This property was originally applied to the Washtenaw County Natural Area Preservation Program in March 2020 and then forwarded to the Farmland and Open Space Board in 2022. Our consultant, Barry Lonik, was able to acquire funding (following an independent appraisal of \$1,152,000) through NRCS (through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program): \$334,080 (29%) State of Michigan (through the Agricultural Preservation Fund): \$449,280 (39%) Washtenaw County (through the Natural Area Preservation Program): \$250,000 (22%)* Dexter Township: \$118,640 (10%). This will be the second property preserved by the FOSPB since its inception. Thank you to the Esch's for wanting to preserve their farmland, the work of the FOSPB, and Barry Lonik for acquiring the additional funding to make this purchase possible.

** a full detail of this transaction and land description is available in the Board of Trustee packet from page 53 – 236, should you care to review. Also attached is a map outlining the location and borders of the Esch property.

- The Board passed Resolution # 25-698 in support of Immigrants in our Community. After much discussion, the resolution was passed declaring Dexter Township a Welcoming Township & Calling for Action to Protect Rights. This resolution supports the efforts of the State of Michigan to officially celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month in June, the month-long observance across the United States to celebrate the diverse contributions of immigrants to the nation's history. It also displays support for the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners' decision not to release biometric data on people enrolled in the Washtenaw County Identification Card program.

- The Board approved additional funding of \$18.5K to complete the Broadband build-out of Tanglewood Trail. This neighborhood was missed in the State and Federal bids. With these funds, Charter will bring cable in via aerial. Scheduling and build-out should take place in the next 4-5 months, following permits, pole repair, and complete scheduling. The completion of this neighborhood will finalize the Broadband project and bring to a close the 5-year efforts of our Township and County. We thank Washtenaw County for its dedication and funding, and the Broad Project Manager, Chris Scharrer, for his endless work on this project.

- Discussion Items at the Board Meeting included:
 - Starting a Waterways committee for our Township. A format and concept will be presented at the July meeting. Generally, we wish to unite our lake community associations to hear the concerns, challenges and to share ideas, lake quality issues, educational forums and more community. Our waterways (lakes and rivers) are a key resource of our township and deserve to be protected and maintained.
 - Fire Ordinance – discussions continue on updating our fire ordinance. The Fire Chief will be invited to speak to the Board and community members in the near future as this topic is reviewed.
 - Personnel Policies – updates to the townships personnel policies are underway, as it is a living document
 - FOIA – Freedom of Information Act – people are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of governments and official acts of those who represent them as public officials and public employees. Updates to the FOIA policies and guidelines are under discussion, including proper forms for requesting and payment fee schedules. Updates will follow as they are finalized

As usual, should you have any questions, please reach out to one of your seven elected officials or simply email info@dextertownshipmi.gov, and your email will be forwarded to the proper person.

Take care and have a Happy Summer!