



MARCH 2025 “in the loop” monthly e-newsletter from Dexter Township

Short Term Rentals Committee Update:

The Short-Term Rentals (STR) Committee held a meeting on March 5, 2025, in which there were 11 members of the public present. Grayson Moore with Carlyle Wortman was our guest who presented the STR survey results, which are also available at (www.dextertownshipmi.gov). The committee reviewed the Committee Charge and discussed next steps. It is the committee’s intention to make a recommendation to the Township Supervisor after April 30th.

The following dates are set as the remaining meetings for the **STR committee**. – **March 26th, April 9th and April 30th** – all at 6pm at the Townhall – hope you can join us!

Any questions, please contact Trustee Alicia Abbott at aabbott@dextertownshipmi.gov

ROADS UPDATE:

At the March meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized the 2025 WCRC Dexter Township Local Roads Agreement. This Friday at 11. The agreement states that the WCRC will handle the improvements, and Dexter Township will pay the project costs. The project includes drainage improvements, heavy brushing, surface shaping, and applying limestone to two road sections.

This year marks the final year of the Township’s five-year plan to vastly improve our roads. Each year the township has coordinated with the County Road Commission and given attention to rebuild our major connector roads: in this final year of the plan: we will be investing approximately \$283K with the County Road Commission funding exceeding \$71K. Madden, Colby, Stinchfield Woods and Toma to Dexter Pinckney Rd are scheduled for repair. Next year, a rotating yearly maintenance plan will go into effect. We want to thank the WCRC for working so closely with us to assist in exceeding our five-year plan – combining the County’s contributions and the Township’s we have invested nearly \$2M rebuilding and improving our roadways.

BUDGETS 2025-2026 Update:

The Board of Trustees passed the 2026 budget at the March meeting. The complete budget outline is available in the monthly packet or by request. Along with the standard operational/maintenance, staff, and capital expense costs, a few additional highlights include:

1. Investing in our Systems Software and moving to an iCloud storage base
2. Preparing and funding the upcoming election later in 2025
3. Community support funding for: Dexter Senior Citizens, Chelsea Senior Citizens, the Historical Society and WAVE bus (Washtenaw Area Value Transit) was approved
4. Community Engagement Spending included: Fall Clean Up Day, the 2026 Metropark Pass Program, the cemetery improvement project, movie night and a volunteer appreciation event to mention a few items
5. To assist us in staying in touch with our residents: 3 Township newsletters were approved along with added funding for mailing informational literature and hosting “coffee chats” on hot topics

In the near future, we will share a summary of the 2024-2025 budget results – the year end on March 31, 2025.

Single Hauler Project Status Update:

The RFPs were sent out for a bid, with February 28th submission deadline. We had four providers bid for our township services: LRS, Stevens, Priority, and Waste Management. The month of March will be used for evaluation of the proposals including meetings with vendors for clarification. Recommendations will be brought to the Board of Trustees at the April 2025 meeting for discussion, allowing for the Board to vote on the topic in May. Any questions, please email Trustee Karen Nolte at knolte@dextertownshipmi.gov or info@dextertownshipmi.gov

Dexter Township Office Administrator Report March 18, 2025

Formalizing “In the Loop” with Brevo

We have decided to move forward with Brevo to streamline our communication with Dexter Township residents. Brevo has affordable pricing (Starter Plan allows 20,000 emails per month and unlimited contacts), strong privacy protection, an easy-to-use interface, and 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 over 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 automating certain functions such as subscriber sign-ups, handling bounce notifications and opt-out requests. The transition to Brevo will help Dexter Township communication with residents be more organized and will provide email subscribers with a more user-friendly system.

Lawn and Snow Maintenance RFP

An RFP was sent to eight different companies for lawn care and snow maintenance services. Proposals must be submitted by April 7th and the Board of Trustees will need to select a vendor from the three most competitive bids at their April 15th meeting. The RFP was sent to local companies capable of efficiently managing ice and snow maintenance at both the Township Hall and Fire Station #2. Additionally, we have emphasized the importance of not using any chemicals and exercising extreme care when maintaining the cemeteries. The selected vendor must demonstrate affordability, reliability, and a strong reputation for quality service.

Warning Siren Upgrades

Dexter Township’s warning siren maintenance provider, West Shore Services, reported that they will begin the installation of the new federal signal universal controllers for all 16 warning sirens on March 17, 2025. As a reminder to the board, this new equipment will allow Washtenaw County to directly trigger our sirens and will allow for future integration into the county’s proposed two-way monitoring system. Additionally, the warning siren

monitoring system at Fire Station #2 will be dismantled once the new cabinet equipment is installed. According to Ben Pinette, Washtenaw County's Emergency Operations Manager, the equipment at Fire Station #2 must go away entirely as there will no longer be any use for it, and it could actually pose a hindrance if not taken offline. Ben Pinette has been a huge source of support during this transitional process and has mentioned he is available for any type of assistance during this transition. The installation of the cabinet equipment is scheduled to be completed at the end of April and additional communication with Ben will occur when the installation is nearing completion.

Need additional information – please follow up with Samatha Edwards at officemanager@dextertownshipmi.gov

Dexter Township Supervisor Report March 18, 2025

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.

FY 2025 Budget Amendment

There is no budget variance report in this month's packet because we are considering amendments in the final month of our fiscal year. Overall, our financial situation remains strong. We do have two areas to consider budget amendments to the FY 2025 due to unforeseen circumstances in the Planning and Zoning department and in the Buildings and Ground department. Overall, even with the amendments we expect to be well within our 2025 budget. Details are included in this packet and I'll be happy to answer any questions folks may have.

Committee Vacancies

We have several committee volunteer vacancies to fill. Currently, we are looking for a new representative to serve on the WAVE Board and the Farm Land and Open Space Preservation Board. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to Sam, our Office Administrator at officemanager@dextertownshipmi.gov or contact Supervisor@dextertownshipmi.gov

Dexter Township Clerk's Report March 2025 Clerk's Office:

The Clerk's office had a total of 4 FOIA's to review and collect information for during the month of February:

1. Local Equipment Sales Business FOIA – Clerk requested the assistance of our inhouse Director of Zoning and Planning and our legal counsel, Bodman, to produce this FOIA.
2. The Accident Report (Premium Audit) – Yearly FOIA regarding our workman's comp policy. Information requested are employee wages, elected officials' wages, federal tax returns, Quartey Wage Facsimile, and all Dexter Township contractors and consultants W9 forms – insurance policies – yearly contracts.
3. FOIA regarding a resident's permitting application – Clerk requested the assistance of our in-house Director of Zoning and Planning and our legal counsel, Bodman, to produce this FOIA.
4. American Transparency - Yearly FOIA regarding salary/staff wages - The principal purpose of this FOIA is to make this information more accessible to the public and to access and disseminate information regarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This request is not principally for personal or commercial benefit.

We received our yearly notification that the CLEAN WATER ACTION group will be out conducting their door-to-door canvassing in our community between the hours of 3:30pm-9:00pm on weekdays and 10:00am-7:00pm Saturdays. They have provided Dexter Township with the proper signed documentation to be able to conduct this canvass for the residents.

Election Status:

The Election Commission Committee had our first meeting March 10, 2025. At our meeting we approved the following action items:

1. Dexter Community Schools Bond Millage ballot language
2. Approval of Precinct #1 and Precinct #3D location (Dexter Township Hall).
3. Location of the AVCB (Dexter Township Hall lower level).

The Election Commission Committee had discussions on the following:

1. The ballot order was submitted to print for the May 6, 2025 Special Election only for Precinct #1 and Precinct #3D.
2. There are a total of 2,366 registered voters in Precinct #1 and a total of 831 registered voters in Precinct #3D.
3. The consensus of the Washtenaw Clerks agreed to forgo 9-day early voting for the May 6, 2025 special election.
4. The school will be responsible for the cost of running the election at Dexter Township.

There will be two additional Election Commission Committee Meetings scheduled for April 7, 2025 and April 24, 2025 at 12pm. Please visit the Dexter Township website, under the Clerks and Election page, where you can find updated information regarding the current Dexter Community Schools bond millage.

We have been contacting voters in Precinct #1 and Precinct #3 who are currently registered on the permanent application list and asking if they would like to be placed on the Perm Ballot list. Being on the Perm Ballot list will bypass the application process and the voter will receive an Absentee Ballot for every election that will be held in Dexter Township.

There have been many new residents inquiring and filling out an application to be an Election Worker. There is mandatory paid training for all new workers to be able to serve in the upcoming May election **(If training was completed before the Presidential Primary of 2024, then the worker is all set and does not need to retake the training unless they would like a refresh)**. The class is taught by ZOOM and there is an option to leave and come back to the training which makes it convenient. As always, we want to extend a big Thank You to anyone who has worked and for their dedication to our Election Process, I am looking forward to working with all the current and new workers this upcoming election!!

Need additional information, please reach out to clerk@dextertownshipmi.gov – Thank you

As always, should you have any questions, comments or concerns feel free to reach out to any of the 7 Trustees or drop an email to info@dextertownshipmi.gov and we will forward it to the proper person,