

Weekly News Report

Oakland Township Sentinel, LLC

News and Information - Charter Township of Oakland, Michigan

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<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/>

“Informed citizens are the foundation of effective self-government”

Township Meetings Next Week

(The public is invited to attend and to comment. Also you can view most meetings live on Ch 17, or see a video on the Township website after the meeting)

Tuesday, Feb. 18, Budget Workshop, Board of Trustees, Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, Feb 19, Historic District Commission (HDC) Township Hall, 7-9 P.M.

Future Township Meetings – Beyond Next Week

Tuesday, Feb 25, Board of Trustees (BOT), Township Hall, 7-10 P.M.

Tuesday, March 4, Planning Commission (PC), Township Hall, 7-9 P.M.

Tuesday, March 11, Board of Trustees (BOT), Township Hall, 7-10 P.M. (Budget Hearing)

Wednesday, March 12, Dog Park Task Force Open House, 5-7 P.M., Township Hall,

Tuesday, March 25, Board of Trustees (BOT), Township Hall, 7-10 P.M. (Approve Budget)

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Corrections:

None

Information added to our website this past week – Link:

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/>

Water page – information added about our 7 community wells

Fire Department page - added

Board of Trustees (BOT)

Link to Township website page:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/board_of_trustees/index.php

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/board-of-trustees/>

Next Meetings:

Tuesday Feb. 18, (Budget Workshop)

Tuesday, Feb 25, Board of Trustees (BOT), Township Hall, 7-10 P.M.

Tuesday, March 11, Board of Trustees (BOT), Township Hall, 7-10 P.M. (Budget public hearing)

Tuesday, March 25, Board of Trustees (BOT), Township Hall, 7-10 P.M. (Approve Budget)

Summary - Board of Trustees Meeting - 2/11/14										
Video Chapter	Agenda Item #	Approx minutes on item	Agenda Item (Green = pass, Red = Fail, Black = discussion only, no vote)	Robin Buxar - Trustee	Michael Bailey Trustee	Jeanne Langlois - Treasurer	Terry Gonser - Supervisor	Karen Reilly - Clerk	Sharon McKay - Trustee	Maureen Thalmann - Trustee
	1	0.5	Call to order							
	2	0.5	Pledge of Allegiance							
	3	0.5	Roll call (P = present, A = absent)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	4	8	Announcements, Proclamations, Presentations - See detail below (Supervisor Terry Gonser)							
	5	11	Citizens comments - See detail below							
	6	1	Amendments / Approval of Agenda (delete #10, add #18A)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	7	0.5	Approve bills of \$120,743 without discussion of detail as a Consent Agenda Item	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	8	0.5	Approved minutes of January 27, 2014 meetings without discussion as a Consent Agenda Item	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	9	7	Approved SCADA County Water System Data gathering license	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	10	0	Dropped Markel FOIA appeal (Markel no present)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	11	31	Approved new Board of Trustees by-laws	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	12	4	Approved \$25,000 for road paving, Hills of Oakland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	13	23	Approved increase in snow removal contract charges (salt price has doubled)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	14	17	Approved \$22,000 for updated sewer flow study / Master Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	15	97	Discussed various budgeting options; Also Manager Capela presented options for fire millage renewal on this year's ballot	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	16	5	Approved hiring one additional paid on-call fire fighter (increase from 21 to 22)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	17	1	Approved Agreement with county for ballot layout	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	18	3	Assigned Trustee Michael Bailey to Marshview Connector Park Parking Lot Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	18A	3	Proclamation recognizing GM employee's contributions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	19	2	Citizens comments	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	20	2	Township Manager's Report (Ann Capela)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	21	12	Board Reports and Correspondence	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	22	?	Enter closed session - legal opinion regarding property purchase	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	23		Adjourned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Board of Trustees (BOT) – Detail

2/11/2014

#4 Announcements, Proclamations, Presentations

Supervisor Terry Gonser –

- Location map of small easement asked for by RCOC for Orion Bridge construction was shown by Supervisor Gonser
- Checking reveals we can store 2 years of meeting videos (previously we thought we had only 13 months capacity)
- Public computer now outside Clerk's office window (look up tax info, etc.)
- Oakland Township is #1 in spending all Community Block Grant Funds allocated
- Installing new servers in Cider Mill for Parks Commission (needed for new accounting software & previous servers were obsolete)
- SAW grant not awarded to Oakland Township

#5 Citizens Comments

Cam Mannino, Township Resident - **Board Undermining Parks Commission**

“Mr. Chairman, two weeks ago you gave your State of the Township report before a group largely made up of personally invited supporters. I'd like to offer a citizens assessment of the state of the township, which is that the Supervisor and many of his supporters wasted too much of this Board's time in 2013 interfering with and attempting to undermine the authority of the Parks Commission, a separately elected body that is trusted and respected by a vast majority of Township citizens. In April, Mr. Gonser instructed our former Manager to inform the Parks Commission that the Board would take over the Land Preservation Fund and its related parks, even though the Parks commission, with almost 40 years experience had proposed and promoted the fund and has administered it successfully for 13 years. When Board members ultimately stated publicly that they had never discussed this takeover or voted on it, the issue died, although I am concerned that it may be resurrected tonight. Mr. Gonser spent months refusing to even put on the agenda the rezoning of park land that had been either donated or purchased for parks. Again, some Trustees finally got it on the agenda, and when it became clear that a majority supported rezoning, he voted with them.

Our Parks Director has been repeatedly and publicly belittled and had her integrity questioned in these meetings as well as by Mr. Gonser's supporters on the Parks Commission. In the last 2 months Mr. Gonser has supported one of those commissioners in insisting that the Parks Director hand over her email password, no due process, no allegations of misconduct. On the second attempt the Parks director's password was changed without notifying her, providing access to her email for Mr. Gonser's supporter. Tonight we will hear of a proposal to use a new budgeting system that essentially provides this board with a line-item veto over every aspect of the PRC's budget. I urge members of this Board, who supported our parks, pathways and trails to consider letting their views be heard more frequently in Board discussion and setting a goal this year of creating a more cooperative and respectful relationship with the other elected body in our township, the Parks Commission, so that they can do their work and you can do yours. Thank you"

Frank Ferriolo, Township Resident – **Township Website Housekeeping is Lacking**

"A friend of mine mentioned to me earlier this week or late last week that, "probably your focus on this particular subject is because of your background in advertising and sales. And that's the reason why you're so perturbed at these elements." The thing that has been a little bit upsetting and disconcerting to me is some of the housekeeping on the website, the simplest of housekeeping items or chores on the website. And I think the website is gorgeous. Now, saying that, I think there could be improvements on the website. But the website is set up so that the website can have an opinion from anybody about it. But, to have actual dates and times for different meetings placed on the website and when they are canceled, never to be removed, as the Planning Commission was done two or three weeks ago now - it was just cancelled two weeks before and stayed on the website without any indication it was cancelled until it fell off the calendar. Then there was the Parks meeting tomorrow night that was cancelled last week and happily that was cancelled, I think on Friday, or whenever it was. Which I saw, and that was good. Except the word "canceled" was spelled wrong it's not a double "l". In fact as we live in Oakland Township we'd prefer the double "l" as opposed to the American "l". Double "l" is British. In any event, there's an "a" in canceled instead of an "e". It's that kind of thing, it's a small thing, but it gives an impression, and I guess that's where my advertising sense comes in and there is an impression given off when someone goes to the website knowing full well that things have been added to cancelled. Now I don't care about the process of if somebody is on vacation or this or that whatever. I'm the user and I'm the customer and I also am concerned about the impression given off by a website that is a pretty nice little website. And to add to that, the pictures that are on there, a couple of them are mine. But I would like to see them change as it is mentioned they should be changed so that there is a fresh look to that by season which is a great idea. It's not done. Nobody's touched

that for a month or two months. We still have spring and fall and summer pictures on there, the ones that were there when it started up. I think it needs to be changed; somebody needs to take care of the housekeeping. But the most important thing is to make sure it is accurate and that it's up to date. So it's a little disconcerting. And I hope that this is the lightest portion of the entire meeting, because everything else is so dry. I thought I'd add a little levity to the meeting tonight.

Supervisor Gonser: *"The reason we keep the summer scenes up is to give us hope. At this time of year, you're not sure the seasons are going to change."*

Joanna VanRaaphorst, Township Resident – **Don't Micromanage Parks**

"Hi, I'm Joanna VanRaaphorst, (address).two thing I'd like to add. First, I was unable to attend the State of the Township event. I think it was a terrific idea. My husband was in the cheap seats – gotta work on that – it was not on the website – I think going forward we need to handle that in a much more professional and open manner - so that will be next year. I'd also like to share with you about the Parks - talked to you before about how passionate my husband were about moving here and about our parks and I'm concerned about the micromanaging. You guys are all professionals; you do your jobs and you gotta let people who are professionals do their jobs. And it's a concern of me that there is a little bit too much of overreach and lack of respect for a person here that I highly respect and have always looked up to with the work that our parks person does. I'm just here to tell you, you do your thing and let them do their thing and let's enjoy our parks. Thank you very much."

Richard Michalski, Township Resident – **Citizens, be vigilant about Master Plan changes**

"In the January 30th, Rochester Post, there was an article titled, "Township Manager Seeks Smart Growth". In the article, Ann Capela made several comments that clarified the direction she wants to take the Township. Unfortunately that direction is contrary to what the citizens have expressed in past surveys. Here are some quotes from the article, from her

- *"Growth is coming"*
 - *"We must marry up the Master Plan with development".*
 - *"The pressures of development must balance with property owner's rights."*
 - *"We must balance the quality of life with people who paid a lot of money to move here."*
 - *"The economy is coming out of a slow slump and we need to lay down the tracks for the train and see the big picture."*
-

All these are quotes from Ann in the article.

The statements Ann made to the press clearly paint the policies. She doesn't set the policies. Since there has been no discussion of these policies in public with the entire board, I can only surmise they are based on conversations she had with Supervisor Gonser. Our Master Plan defines a level and type of development that our Township desires. In essence the "horse" is the Master Plan; the "cart" is development. In now appears that our new Manager and Supervisor want to put the "cart before the horse" by having the Master Plan, and I quote "Marry up with development".

Just because someone purchased a parcel of land for a lot of money does not entitle them to redefine the land use in the Master Plan. Before someone buys a parcel they should make sure that their intended use is consistent with the zoning and Master Plan. In Supervisor Gonser's recent State of the Township Address he indicated that he plans on updating the Master Plan. With his recent appointments of campaign contributors to the Planning Commission, you may see some significant changes in our next Master plan.

Why is this important to the citizens of Oakland Township? If our Master Plan is significantly modified, the character of our Township will change dramatically. Our citizens must be vigilant in watching what our Planning Commission and new Board does over the next few years. If we are not vigilant, the "tracks" that Ann Capela talks about putting down, may end up being for the "train" some members of the current board under the leadership of Gonser, envision. I trust that the majority of the Board members will be vigilant as many of the citizens will be in maintaining the character of our township.

#6 – Amendments / Approval of Agenda

(Board meeting packet page 0)

Trustee Maureen Thalmann suggested removing item #10, Markel FOIA Appeal, as Mrs. Markel was not present.

Supervisor Gonser suggested adding #18A – a proclamation honoring a GM employee.

#7 Bills

(Board meeting packet pages 1-13, 30 second discussion)

Bills totaling \$120,743 were approved without discussion. (Editor's note: We look forward to future Board public reviews of quarterly fiscal reports suggested by some Trustees at agenda item #15.)

#8 Approval of Jan 27 Meeting Minutes

(Board Meeting packet pages 14-30, 30 second discussion)

#9 – SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition - water and sewer system monitoring)

(Board Meeting Packet pages 31- 43, 7 minute discussion)

Most of our Township water systems (seven wells for 2664 houses) and sewer systems are managed by Oakland County Water Resources Commission (OCWRC). To monitor water and sewer system operations, sensors on various valves, pumps, lift stations and flow meters, etc. throughout Oakland Township send signals to a central device that forwards the information to the County. In this way OCWRC can spot a problem that might lead to a sewer back-up or low water pressure and react promptly. The current system installed in 1993 is obsolete and needs to be replaced.

To place the new central communication device on our tower by Township Hall requires a formal legal agreement. This is what the board approved, after a review of the system by OCWRC Manager Tim Prince.

To see more engineering and contract details see the Board Meeting Packet pages 31- 43 (page numbers are handwritten at bottom right of page)

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/misc-documents-board-of-trustees-2014-bot-packet-february-11-2014.pdf>

#11 – Board of Trustees By-Laws

(Board packet pages 49-52, 31 minute discussion)

The new “rules of order” for Board of Trustee meetings, were adopted with a few minor revisions. These cover Board meetings, but not Board activities between meetings. It’s a good start. One interesting feature is that anyone, including any resident, may suggest an agenda item and it can be added by either the Supervisor or two trustees. Using Manager Capela’s new form “Request for Action” is recommended. The by-laws subcommittee of Langlois, Bailey and Reilly worked out this draft, in open subcommittee meetings.

#12 - \$25,000 for Road Paving – Hills of Oakland Subdivision

(Board Meeting packet pages 53-57; 4 minute discussion)

Traditionally the Township has contributed 10% of the cost of road paving up to a maximum of \$25,000. For example, this past summer we had Bear Creek Court resurfaced after over 30 years at a cost of about \$167,000 (19 homes). We had 10% deducted from this bill. Hills of Oakland's bill will probably 10 times ours, so they won't get 10%, just the \$25,000 maximum.

#13 – Increase in Snow Removal Contract Salting Prices

(Board Meeting packet pages 58-66; 23 min. discussion)

Due to the doubling of salt prices, the contractor's request for a price increase per application was approved. See details on page 65 of Board Packet

- Township Hall, Fire Dept. Sheriff's Substation – increase from \$176 to \$281 (+60%)
- Cider Mill – increase from \$69 to \$104 (+51%)
- West side of Cider Mill from \$35 to \$52 (+48%)

#14 – Revised Oakland Township Sanitary Sewer Master Plan - \$45,200 Two-Phase Study

(Board Meeting packet pages 67-75; 17 minute discussion)

New home subdivision construction depends on adequate sewer capacity. Sewer capacity in the past has been determined by rule-of-thumb estimates of flow from each house or business. We could promise sewer capacity to developers that we do not have or alternatively restrict building if we actually have more capacity than we think. When it rains some unknown amount of flow enters the sanitary sewers, even though it should not.

By measuring actual flows, this two-phase \$45,300 study aims to identify our current capacity and then determine any added sewers we need to build to accommodate future construction, once we decide how much to allow. Phase I was approved at cost of \$22,000.

#15 - Fiscal Year - 2014/2015 Budget and Budget Process

(Board meeting packet pages 77-93)

There was 97 minutes of discussion of three topics –

- #15 a,b,c,e,f - line item budgeting as possible change for upcoming year
- #15d - possibly taking over Land Preservation Fund from Parks
- #15g - Fire Department expiring millage.

#15(a, b, c, e, f) - Line-item budgeting vs. cost-center budgeting

In the past the Township has done cost-center budgeting. Here is what it said in our current fiscal year Budget Resolution 13-04 (from Township website):

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/community_info/docs/13_14_Adopted_Budget.pdf

Section 8: Adoption of Budget by Cost Center

The Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Oakland adopts the 2013/2014 fiscal year general budget by cost center. Township officials responsible for the expenditures authorized in the budget may expend township funds up to, but not to exceed, the total appropriation authorized for each cost center, and may make transfers among the various line items contained in the cost center appropriation. However, no transfers of appropriations for line items related to personnel or capital outlays may be made without prior board approval by budget amendment.

Section 10: Transfer Authority

The Chief Administrative Officer shall have the authority to make transfers among the various cost centers (or line items) without prior board approval, if the amount to be transferred does not exceed \$10,000. The Board shall be notified at its next meeting of any such transfers made, and reserves the right to modify, amend or nullify any such transfers made. Under no circumstances may the total general fund budget be changed without prior board approval.

It was not clear who initiated this discussion of possibly changing from cost-center budgeting to line-item budgeting. Gonser and Thalmann seemed to be in favor of this change, Langlois, Bailey and Buxar seemed to be opposed based on it being too cumbersome and time-consuming with many board approvals of small changes required. McKay and Reilly were mostly quiet. However there was no motion made to vote on. Perhaps there will be another discussion at next week's February 18th budget workshop.

The following people also expressed opinions on this topic, generally against line-item budgeting at this part of the meeting Cam Mannino, Alice Tomboulion, Craig Blust, Mindy Milos-Dale, Richard Michalski.

Frank Ferriolo spoke in favor of whatever it took for more Board oversight of the Parks budget.

In later citizens comments Parks and Recreation Commissioners Ann Marie Rogers and Roger Schmidt spoke in favor of changing to line item budgeting. See their remarks at about minute 214.

(Opinion: It was not made clear exactly how the proposed line-item budgeting would work so it seemed we were discussing only individual opinions of how cumbersome it would or would not be, without a clear definition of how it would work.)

15(d) - Suggestion that Board Manage the Land Preservation Fund

Supervisor Gonser suggested that the BOT have oversight and administration of the Land Preservation Fund, citing, as his reason, not initially, but later in the discussion, the need to "...institute much better project management, which is severely lacking..." (about minute 166). Several Trustees were against detailed administration of this fund and a motion to do so was not made. Trustee Bailey pointed out that the quarterly reviews he suggests would provide adequate budget oversight, without burdening the BOT with details or hampering the PRC functioning.

Citizens Cam Mannino and Reg Brown spoke against the Board taking over the Land Preservation Fund. Their comments can be seen at about minutes 176:30 to 181:30 on the video.

(Opinion: If Supervisor Gonser wants the Board to manage this fund in order to improve project management he needs to convince his board that 1) current project management is lacking and 2) the solution is for the Board to manage the fund.)

15(g) - Ballot Language for the Expiring Fire Department Millage

(Board Meeting packet pages 94-99)

Township Manager Capela presented the Board with three options for ballot language for renewal and/or increase in the fire millage, which expires at the end of this year.

#16 – Approved Increase in Paid-On-Call-Firefighters from 21 to 22

(Board Meeting packet page 100)

Our full time fire department has 9 employees:

- Fire Chief
- 4 – EMS, Emergency Medical Technicians
- 4 – Firefighters / EMS

These are supplemented as needed by Paid-On-Call firefighters. We currently have 21. An increase to 22 was approved.

#17, #18, #18A, #19, #20,

No additional detail to report on these agenda items.

#21 Board Comments

(See full Board comments on video)

Treasurer Jeanne Langlois –

- Reviewed investments (what funds in what banks, report not in board meeting packet)
 - Reviewed what Trails and Safety Paths Advisory Committee will be formally requesting of the Board in near future
 - Staff help
 - Add 4 appointed members (citizens)
 - Recording secretary
 - Passed out proposed new interim guidelines to help department with getting bids (A campaign promises of Supervisor Gonser was bids for anything over \$2500)
-
-

Clerk Karen Reilly –

- August primary election coming up for Trustee; filing deadline in April; get packet at Township Hall
- Need election workers - apply at Township Hall

Trustee Maureen Thalmann

- No Haz dates on website; looking for youth groups to help
- RAYA – seeking nominations for *“kids who have done good in a positive way”* to honor at a March 25 banquet.
- *“Legal bills, again this month we have paid our own law firm but then through Parks we’ve also paid \$1360 to a second law firm whose work would have been covered under the contract with Dan Kelly’s company.”*

Trustee Robin Buxar – *“...excavation work at cider mill scheduled is tentatively scheduled to begin this Thursday”*

Supervisor Terry Gonser -

“Yesterday I attended the OCATS meeting which is the Oakland County Association of Township Supervisors. Yesterday, Dan Stencil, who’s the executive officer of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department, made a presentation to us. Even though some folks might like to intimate that the Supervisor is not a Parks person, quite the opposite is true. I love parks. It’s interesting, Mr. Stencil said, that the number one item that they are being requested to put in Oakland County Parks is a dog park – highly desirable, top priority and looking for partner ships. So, that just kind of rang a bell, it was interesting.

They do a survey, and a they have a very comprehensive survey and they suggested that perhaps that local Township departments probably wouldn’t need to do a survey of needs, because their survey of needs because there’s is so comprehensive. One of the things they are finding is that in addition to ball diamonds, tennis courts, soccer fields, there is great desire coming in for lacrosse and cricket. So there might be an interesting change in the thought process there. They have local recreation plans. The county has statistically valid survey data. They have facility planning documents, which rather than each township recreate engineering studies; the county already has a lot of that so we can save money by using that. They are

looking to expand the heritage parks which are fishing, hunting and boating so they'd like to see expansion in that area.

Trails specifications – they do a lot of trails work so they have specifications developed, how to put trails in and the maintenance specifications, that may be a great help for our trails commission. And they have what they call recreation assistant partnership programs, to partner with townships to administer a wider variety of recreational opportunities. As I mentioned they are also very interested in perhaps partnering with townships that have township parks, but have county involvement in the implementation and development of those parks. So it was very interesting and I'd like to get this information to the parks department.”

Trustee Maureen Thalmann – *“That’s pretty exciting, I think.”*

Supervisor Gonser – *“Oh, I was very excited. The number one use park they have is a water park, they have two of them and they are highly used. I don’t think we are quite in line for that. They are developing Addison Oaks Park which is right across 32 mile road, across the border from Oakland Township, putting more equestrian and family facilities. They’re promoting this as a family opportunity to camp together, fish together, bike, and hike a lot of family opportunities for recreation. And if you have an opportunity to go on the website, you can see a lot more.”*

Budgets – It’s Your Tax Money

(Taxes reduced \$110,000, projected spending increased \$192,000 in General Fund 101 budget amendment of 11/12/2013.)

You can see this year’s budget resolution, made March 2013 to cover April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014 on the Township website at this link:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/community_info/docs/13_14_Adopted_Budget.pdf

You can see the budget amendment made on 11/12/2013. This amendment decreased taxes in the General Fund 101 (CVT on your tax bill) by \$110,000, yet increased spending by \$191,000. The largest increase was the “legal fee” budget from \$120,000 to \$220,000.

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/board_of_trustees/docs/Budget_Amendments_2013.pdf.

You can see what has been previously predicted for the next few years (up to 2016-2017) here:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boardsand_commissions/board_of_trustees/docs/Draft_Budgets_2014_2015.pdf

One of the primary responsibilities of the Board of Trustees is to collect and watch over your tax money. They must see that it is not stolen or lost by poor investment. They must spend it for your benefit as you direct via approval of tax levies and other input.

The next annual budget resolution will tell you how the Board intends to spend your money for the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. It also sets the detailed rules for any changes during the year. Once the Board sets this budget they can't change it unless they formally amend it at a public meeting. Attend the public hearing on March 11th to hear the budget discussed and provide your input.

Fire Department

Link to township website page:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/township_departments/fire_department/index.php

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/fire-department/>

The fire millage is expiring at the end of this year. Look for renewal or increase to be on the August ballot.

Historic District Commission (HDC)

Link to Township website page:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/historic_district_commission/index.php

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/oakland-township-historical-society-and-oakland-township-historic-district-commission/>

Next meeting:

Wednesday, Feb 19th, Historic District Commission (HDC) Township Hall, 7-9 P.M.

Older Persons' Commission

Website homepage: <http://www.opcseniorcenter.org/>

Link to Sentinel webpage: <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/older-persons-commission/>

Link to OPC February Newsletter: <http://www.opcseniorcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/OPC-FEB-2014-NewsWeb.pdf>

Feb. 24th, Representative Tom McMillan will host a “Property Tax Town Hall Meeting” at 7 P.M.

Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)

Link to Township webpage:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/index.php

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/parks-and-recreation-commission/>

Tuesday, Feb 18, Budget Workshop

Wednesday, March 12th, Dog Park Task Force Open House, 5-7 P.M., Township Hall,

Planning Commission (PC)

Link to Township webpage:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/planning_commission/index.php

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel web page:

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/planning-commission/>

Next meeting:

March 4th, 7P.M., Township Hall

(Probably work on revision of the Goodison Plan.)

Police / Sheriff's Department

Link to Township webpage:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/township_departments/sheriffs_department/index.php

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/police-sheriffs-department/>

Trails and Safety Paths Advisory Committee (TSPAC)

Link to Township webpage:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/township_departments/safety_path_and_trail_network/index.php

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/safety-paths-and-trails-committee-information/>

Next meeting:

Wed. March 5th, 3 P.M., Paint Creek Cider Mill

This committee will ask Board of Trustees for permission to add 4 more members. Consider applying to be on this committee when the Board of Trustees approves this change. Start thinking about what information you would put on your application at this link:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/community_info/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

Link to webpage on Township website:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/zoning_board_of_appeals/index.php

Zoning Board of Appeals meeting originally scheduled for **Feb. 18th, 2014** has been cancelled.

Editorials

Maybe next week after we work out our editorial policy in detail.

Letters to the Editors

We welcome these, especially those that add missing facts or correct factual errors, or ask questions of interest to the general community. Facts presented should be verifiable by readers. Please restrict comments to local government affairs.