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, March 4, Planning Commission (PC), Township Hall, 7-9 P.M. Wednesday, March 5, Safety Paths and Trails, 3 P.M., Paint Creek Cider Mill

Future Township Meetings – Beyond Next Week

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, Wednesday, March 12, Parks and Recreation Commission, 7-9 P.M., Township Hall Tuesday, March 18, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), 7-9 P.M., Township Hall Wednesday, March 19, Historic District Commission (HDC), 7-9 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/

We changed the website format to place the page headings on the left. Readers with smaller screens told us they could not tell what page they were on without scrolling down.



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, 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)

Charter Township of Oakland

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670 Telephone: (248) 651-4440 Fax: (248) 651-1510 www.oaklandtownship.org



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA – Amended 02/21/2014 Tuesday, February 25, 2014 7:00 PM

- I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call
- II. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations
- III. Public Comment for items not on the Agenda
- IV. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda
- V. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - 1. Approval of Minutes February 11, 2014
 - 2. Approval of Bills
- VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. PENDING BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion/Action Wyndgate Country Club; application for Fireworks for June 14, 2014
- 2. (a) Presentation Overview of Historic District Commission FY 2014/15 Budget: HDC Representative
 - (b) Discussion/Review Historic District Commission FY 2014/15 Budget
- 3. (a) Presentation Oakland Township FY 2014/15 Fire Department Budget: Fire Chief Paul Streichuk
 - (b) Discussion/Review Oakland Township FY 2014/15 Fire Fund Budget
- 4. Discussion/Review Oakland Township Parks & Rec Budget and Land Preservation Budget
- Discussion/Action Replacement of Vehicles:
 - (a) Fire Department Ambulance
 - (b) Fire Department Command Vehicle
 - (c) Fire Department Fire Chief
- 6. Discussion/Action Replacement of a Vehicle for Building Department
- VIII. Township Manager's Report
- IX. Board Reports & Correspondence: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees
- X. Public Comment for items not on the Agenda
- XI. Adjournment

Sum	mary	/ - B	Soard of Trustees Meeting - 2/25/14							
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	I.	0.5	Call to order,Pledge of Allegiance							
1	I.	0.5	Roll call (P = present, A = absent)	P	P	P	Α	P	P	A ⁽¹⁾
1	I.	0.5	Trustee Bailey appointed Chair of Meeting	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	A ⁽¹⁾
2	II	0.25	Announcements, Proclamations, Presentations - None							
NA	III	0	Citizens comments - non-agenda items - none							
3	IV	1	Approved Agenda with no changes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	A ⁽¹⁾
4	V	0.25	Approved bills of \$231,235 without discussion as a Consent Agenda Item	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	A ⁽¹⁾
4	V	0.25	Approved minutes of Feb. 11, 2014 meetings without discussion as a Consent Agenda Item	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	A ⁽¹⁾
NA	VI	0	Old business - none							
5	VII-1	4	Wyndgate Country Club fireworks application - tabled for more information from Wyndgate	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	A ⁽¹⁾
6	VII-2	27	Historic district commissions proposed 2014-2015 budget discussed							
7	VII-3	6	Fire Department proposed 2014-2015 budget-tabled discussion (2)							
8	VII-4	34	Parks and Recreaction proposed 2014-2015 budget discussed							
9-12	VII-5	69	Tabled purchase of ambulance (\$108,000) and command vehicle (\$44,000) until 3/11; approved purchase of pick-up for Chief(\$36,000)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
13	VII-6	3	Approved purchase of pick-up for Building Department (\$36,000)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
14	VIII	2	Manager Ann Capela's report							
15	IX	3	Board Reports	Yes	Yes	Yes		No	No	Yes
16	Х	3	Public Comment							
	ΧI	0	Adjournment							

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⁽¹⁾ Trustee Thalmann arrived at about 7:11 during Agenda item VII-2, HDC budget

⁽²⁾ The Fire Department budget was discussed somewhat under Agenda item VII-5; vehicle purchases

I. Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Since Township Supervisor Gonser was absent, Trustee Michael Bailey was chosen by his fellow Trustees to chair the meeting.

V. Approval of Bills and 2/11/14 Minutes

(Board Meeting packet pages 1-20, video chapter 5)

It concerns us that, month after month, bills for large dollar amounts (for example, \$231,235 this month) are approved with no discussion amongst the Trustees. Are there no questions, concerns, or desires for further clarification on the part of any of the Trustees when presented with such bills? Further . . . is there even adequate time for such an investigation to be conducted between receipt of the "meeting packet" on Friday and the BOT meeting which takes place on the following Tuesday evening?

VII-1 – Wyndgate Fireworks Application

(Board Meeting packet pages 21-25, video chapter 5)

Wyndgate Country Club has applied for a fireworks permit for June 14 at 10 P.M. They plan a total of 230 fireworks in the coming season. This permit is required under Michigan Act 256 of 2011. The Board decided, in view of complaints from last year about noise, lateness and frequency, to table this application until Manager Capela meets with Wyndgate staff to determine their overall plans for 2014. (Moved by Buxar, seconded by Langlois.)

Recommendation to Board of Trustees:

We recommend that the Township set up a formal method per NFPA 1123 to rule on the competency of fireworks operators.

See section 16 (4) in the act below. Great Lakes Fireworks, LLC http://www.greatlakesfireworks.com/services.html who will be doing this display seems to be a large company with many displays in Michigan and is likely competent. But if we set up this routine, it may eventually prevent an incompetent company from operating in Oakland Township in the future and thereby protect the safety and welfare of Township Citizens.

MICHIGAN FIREWORKS SAFETY ACT Act 256 of 2011

28.466

Articles pyrotechnic or display fireworks ignition; permit; competency and qualifications of operators; retention of fee.

Sec. 16.

(4) The local governing authority shall rule on the competency and qualifications of articles pyrotechnic and display fireworks operators as required under NFPA 1123, as the operator has furnished in his or her application form, and on the time, place, and safety aspects of the display of articles pyrotechnic or display fireworks before granting permits.

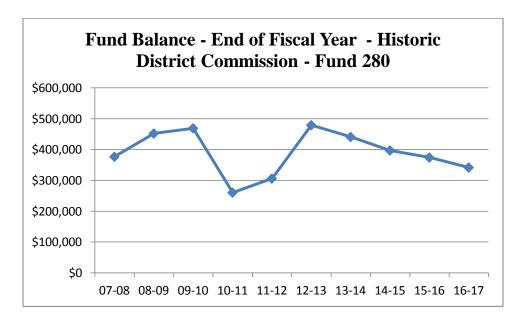
A site where NFPA 1123 guidebook can be purchased:

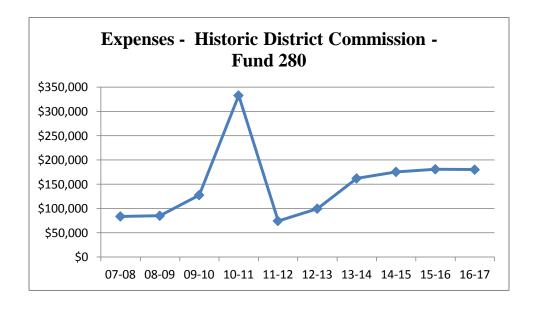
http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/product.asp?title=&pid=112314&icid=A696

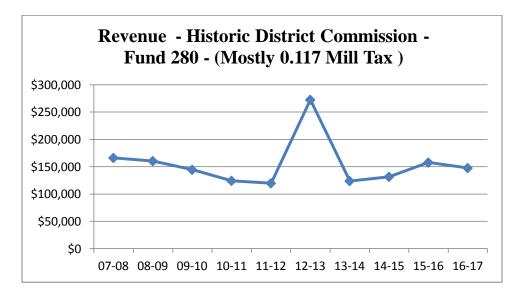
VII-2 Historic District Commission Budget

(Board Packet pages 26-32, video chapter 6)

The Board of Trustees was satisfied with the HDC proposed expenses for 2014-2015 of \$34,540 over revenue because the HDC has a fund balance (think money in the checking account) of almost \$500,000 due to spending below revenue in previous years. In fact, the Board decided to allow a requested increase of \$18,000 for an HDC contribution to work at Paint Creek Cider Mill. (Line item 280-901-975.010).







(Note: The large increase in 2012-2013 was \$150,000 moved from the General Fund by the Board of Trustees in compensation for funds invested by HDC in historic barns associated with the failed Harvest Corners project. Sources say the Township agreed to accept 16 acres in lieu of cash to repay HDC and for fees owed for Harvest Corners township engineering fees.)

The Board of Trustees and HDC Chairman, Josiane Whitson, were complimentary of the work done by Historic District Commission Administrative Assistant, Barbara Barber, saying she has the necessary expertise (degree in historic preservation), "wears many hats" and has been helpful in many circumstances. For 2014-2015, her salary plus benefits and other employment expenses will total about \$73,240 or 55% of projected revenue of \$133,300 -

Salary	\$42,840
Hospitalization Insurance	\$20,900
Pension	\$5,200
FICA	. \$3,400
Life, disability, workman's comp. insurance	\$900

VII-3 - Fire Department Budget – Fund 206

(Board meeting packet pages 33-35, video chapter 7 & 9)

The Board decided not to discuss the budget in detail, citing the fact that they had just received a revised document and had no time to study it. However, a discussion of budgetary needs took place later, just before the discussion of ambulance refurbishment, agenda item VII-5a.

Chief Paul Strelchuk explained three problems that will cause some temporary and some permanent expense increases in the next few years starting now. We have taken the liberty to paraphrase, combine and summarize the Chief's statements along with those of Firefighter Derek Young and another firefighter present at the meeting.

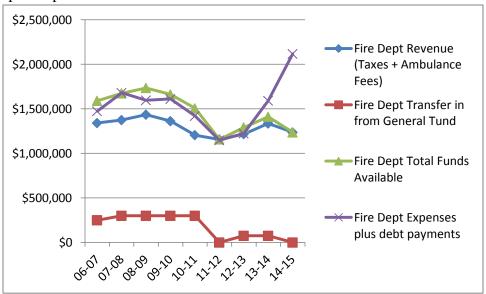
Problem #1 – More volunteer or full-time firefighter/paramedics are needed to service Oakland Township's growing population with a timely and adequately manned response to both medical emergencies (such as cardiac arrest) and fire events. We currently fall below the county recommended staffing of two paramedics for medical runs, and it takes too long (20 minutes) to assemble the five person crew needed for a safe house fire entry to fight a house fire and rescue residents. We are currently bending the rules of safe practice to serve residents.

The 2014 to 2015 budget provides \$160,000 for volunteer firefighter/paramedics (\$11 per hour pay when actually responding to an alarm). This is up from \$125,000 for 2013-2014. However, the township has had poor response to calls for volunteers. If we cannot get volunteers, we need full-time employees as the alternative. Current staffing levels are inadequate for desired response times to fires, and they are borderline adequate for medical emergencies.

Problem #2 - Large near-term capital \$\$ are needed to replace equipment and repair buildings. This money will have to be approved by the Board from the General Fund as there is not enough money in the Fire Fund for these needs. A critical need is for Fireman's personal protective equipment, namely turn-out gear, boots and helmets that are beyond their recommended life of 10 years.

Problem #3 – Short-term, we need to replace an ambulance, replace the chief's vehicle, and provide a rescue vehicle that can reach medical scenes in snow and ice when an ambulance cannot.

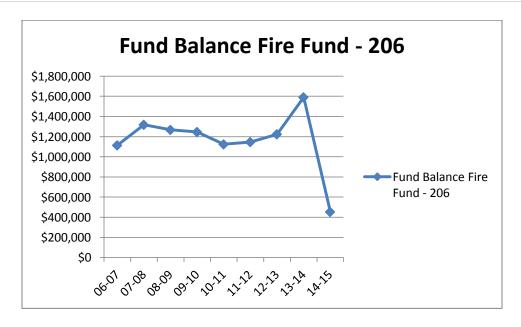
The submitted budget lumps all these needs into the 2014-15 fiscal year. All except building repair need to be in that year. Building repair may stretch over 3-5 years, depending on what we find from repair experts.



Historically, the 1.0 mil fire tax levy has been supplemented with money from the General Fund as authorized by the Board of Trustees. For example, in years 2006-2011 a total of \$1,450,000 was transferred from the General Fund to Fire Fund. Most was to pay off Station #2, located on Rochester Rd., built in 2002. This is equivalent to a 1.25 mil Fire tax levy during those five years, 25% above the 1.0 mill level.

While the #2 station was being paid off, no provision was made to accumulate a capital fund for equipment replacement and building repair. Some replacements and repairs have been delayed beyond wise deadlines. Equipment needs are immediate for protection of citizens and firefighter/paramedics. Perhaps building repair can be done over a few years.

In whatever way these added expenses are moved around on the calendar, it will dangerously deplete the fire fund (checkbook balance) below recommended minimum reserves, as shown in the graph below. To maintain an adequate fire fund reserve we need either a fire fund millage increase or annual \$\$ transfers from the General Fund.



VII – 4 Parks and Recreation and Land Preservation Budget

(Video chapter 8)

See video for discussion.

VII-5 – Immediate Replacement of Fire Department Vehicles (Board Packet pages 36-39, video chapters 9-12)

VI-5a - Immediate Replacement Ambulance Alpha-1, 2007 Ford E-450, 6 Liter Diesel - \$108,000

(Board Packet page 36, video chapter 10)

Ambulance Alpha-1 is based on a 2007 Ford E-450 truck chassis and motor. It was purchased Sept 2007 and has 61,007 miles. The truck will not go over 20 mph for the first 2 miles. Apparently this 6 liter diesel engine has been a problem worldwide, and multiple mechanics have said it cannot be repaired, as it is "that motor". The vehicle was removed from service last week, giving us no back-up. This vehicle must be replaced by removing the box of the ambulance and placing it on a new chassis and motor. Wheelcoach does this work. They have three chassis's with this 6 Liter diesel that they cannot sell, as no one wants this motor. The cost is \$108,000, which is less than the \$160,000 required for a completely new ambulance. The goal is to always have 3 ambulances so that when one is in the shop, there is still one at each station. The Board failed to second Trustee Thalmann's motion to immediately go forward with the ambulance purchase. Further discussion was tabled until March 11 in order to get a detailed picture of how this purchase will impact this year's (2013-2014) final budget expense numbers. An estimated \$75,000 from the General Fund will be needed for this purchase.

VII-5b - Purchase of Dual Function - Rescue Vehicle / Command Vehicle - \$44,000 (Board Packet pages 37, video chapter 11)

Our ambulances sometimes cannot make it down snow and ice covered gravel roads or long driveways to get to the scene. We have relied on personal volunteer firefighter 4-wheel drive vehicles of volunteer firefighter/paramedics to transport a person from their house to the ambulance in a Stokes basket. If the personal vehicle were not available, rescue would require carrying the person long distances over treacherous terrain with loss of valuable time. The necessary vehicle will be stationed at Station #2 and ensure that we have this capability at all times. It includes a winch to avoid getting stuck.

In addition it will serve as a command vehicle with needed internet, multiple radios and other communication devices needed for modern communications in a fire department. It is standard for a Fire Department to have such a command vehicle, which we do not. Some departments have a fire truck size command vehicle. This vehicle will be a 2015 GMC Yukon 4-wheel drive, 4 door. The projected life is 10 years. This was also tabled until March 11, when more detailed budget impact data will be available.

VII-5c - Replacement of Fire Chief's Truck (Board Packet pages 38-39, video chapter 13)

The Chief's eight year old GMC Sierra pick-up with 127,000 miles is deteriorating and needs to be replaced with a 2014 GMC Yukon 4-wheel drive, 4 door for \$36,228 (County bid price minus \$4,000). The Board approved this purchase so the \$4,000 savings sale price can be obtained. The money for this was "squeezed" out of 9 line items by Chief Strelchuk. In addition the Building Dept. will contribute \$7,284 since the Chief sometimes does building inspection work if needed. The Board approved this unanimously.

VII-6 – Replacement of Building Department Pick-up

Same basic story as for the Fire Chief truck above. The Board approved this purchase unanimously.

VIII - Manager's Report - Ann Capela

Supervisor Gonser has scheduled a meeting on March 11 to discuss the Rochester Cider Mill to resolve the issues (modification of court order).

Have an accepted job offer for a new "accountant" to replace a retiring person in Treasurer's office. The person (she) has 25 years in Michigan township municipal accounting. We need to have purchase orders to properly account for incoming invoices and place expenses in correct categories. She can help with this.

May want to narrow credit card use.

IX – Board Reports

Treasurer Langlois – Has written proposed temporary purchasing guidelines for use while we work on a permanent system; these will at least capture what we are already doing and get it written down.

Buxar -

- Stated that the cider mill / mill race work is moving forward; too cold for diesel engines
- Would like to include an action item on administration of Land Preservation Millage
 Fund on March 11 agenda; several Trustees supported this as a future agenda item

Thalmann

- Food donations for Clean Scene Day are coming in
- Suggested a purchasing policy in which the ordering person is not same person who
 receives it and approves the purchase.

Bailey, Clerk Reilly, McKay – no report

X. Public Comments

Jan Olson – please look into Comcast station – large roar gives a headache; inaccurate information about board members is posted; illegible items (too small print); place want-ad for paid on-call firefighters; brought this up 6 weeks ago and they could not fix it; (Bailey asked Ann Capela to investigate.)

Frank Ferriolo – was hard to hear tonight; did PA system get adjustments at joint meeting that need to be corrected?

Taxes and Budgets – It's Your Money

Annual Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, March 11, Board of Trustees (BOT), Township Hall, 7-10 P.M. (Budget Hearing) This is your chance to comment on spending plans for next year, before they are finalized on March 25.

Fire Department (Oakland Township Fire Department, OTFD)

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/

See Board of Trustee's meeting.

Historic District Commission (HDC)

Link to Township website page:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards and commissions/historic district commission/i ndex.php

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

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

Next meeting:

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

See page 7 for discussion at Board of Trustees of HDC proposed 2014-2015 budget.

Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS)

Link to OTHS website: http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org/

Oakland Township Historical Society is not a government body, but a private organization. They play a role in helping us remember our roots, and the principles that worked for us and our ancestors, without which we risk losing our way as we move into an uncertain future.

Consider joining, volunteering or contributing items of interest. Their most recent newsletter Jan-Feb 2004 with contact information is on their website (see above). Join for \$25 and receive member benefits.

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

Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)

Link to Township webpage:

 $\frac{http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/index.p}{hp}$

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

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

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, March 12th, Dog Park Task Force Open House, 5-7 P.M., Township Hall, Wednesday, March 12, Parks and Recreation Commission, 7-9 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 they will work on the 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/

Schools - Rochester

Brian Peterson, Musson Elementary School 5th Grade Teacher won a \$10,000 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. There were only 2 winners from each of 50 states. Read about it at these links to Oakland Press and Detroit News: http://www.theoaklandpress.com/general-news/20140103/ou-prof-honored-by-president-obama

http://www.freep.com/article/20140106/NEWS06/301060010/Michigan-teachers-honored-presidential-award

This is not Mr. Peterson's first teaching award. See these links for other stories: http://www.theoaklandpress.com/general-news/20101115/two-rochester-community-schools-teachers-to-be-honored

Safety Path & Trails Committee (SPTC)

Link to Township webpage:

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

Link to Oakland Township Sentinel webpage:

 $\underline{http://oakland townshipsentinel.wordpress.com/safety-paths-and-trails-committee-information/}$

Next meeting:

Wednesday, March 5, 3 P.M., Paint Creek Cider Mill

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

Link to webpage on Township website:

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

Next meeting:

Tuesday, March 18, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), 7-9 P.M., Township Hall

Editorials

None

Resident Questions Answered

(Do you have a question that we may be able to research? Let us know.)

When do the terms of the 7 Planning Commission members expire? What is the process to replace them?

The terms are staggered so the whole board does not come up for reappointment at one time. The expiration date for current members is (thanks to Elaine Leven for this information):

Roger Shulze – 2014
Barbara Wolak – 2014
James Carter – 2015
Janine Saputo – 2015
Ron Hein – 2016
John Giannangeli – 2016
Jeanne Langlois - Board Election Determined

All terms expire in September of the stated year. Each term is 3 years

Members are nominated by the Township Supervisor (considered the chief elected official), traditionally from applications received. The Board of Trustees which then must approve the nomination for it to become final. Incumbent Commission members should re-apply for reappointment.

MICHIGAN PLANNING ENABLING ACT Act 33 of 2008

125.3815

Sec. 15.

(1) In a municipality, the chief elected official shall appoint members of the planning commission, subject to approval by a majority vote of the members of the legislative body elected and serving.

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.)



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Back issues are also found on our website at this link: http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.wordpress.com/weekly-news-report/

********The End of 2/28/2014 Weekly News Report******