



# Park Township

From the Desk of Howard Fink,

Township Manager

5/8/2020

Hi Everyone. It's been a while since I have attached a formal report. I have been trying to keep the board informed in more frequent emails on what is going on during this COVID crisis.

## **Water Utility**

Implementing the Water utility transition is ongoing. We sent out bills reflecting the new rate structure last month. As expected, we are getting phone calls on the increase. Susan is doing a phenomenal job dealing with the questions, explaining the increase, and informing residents of the upcoming transition to Holland BPW. A final set of communications will be mailed to residents shortly giving additional information on their final bill with the township and what to expect when they are transferred to the Holland BPW.

## **Roads**

Roads are complete. I will work on getting them done sooner this upcoming year. The COVID situation set us back, as well as a desire to be certain of our program and garnering the best value for our dollar.

## **Parks**

The skate park, dog park, basketball courts and pickle ball courts are still closed. This will continue until the governor relieves the restrictions and removes the social distancing orders.

Ryan and his team are back to full strength. They are working on the parks system to get our grounds looking strong for the upcoming summer season.

## **Cooper Van Wieren**

Construction on Cooper Van Wieren project has begun. We are moving forward with the road design as it has been bid. There are a few residents that have recently voiced extreme displeasure with the location of the access. They feel now that the airport is being closed, access should be off of 152 or Ottawa Beach Road. This is a valid point. While it is not realistic to change course now, when the board evaluates the full uses for the 80 acres, access to Cooper Van Wieren should be discussed. In the future, maybe the Perry street access could be closed.

## **Airport**

I have tried to provide continual updates on what is occurring at the airport. As you know, the pilot group has removed items that we believe are the Township's and others that have value if we were to incorporate an aviation museum or have airport artifacts on display at the historic hanger.

I have already had significant conversations with Dan Martin on how to move forward. We could ask Dan to engage and attempt to retrieve / protect the property through legal channels, but such an action could be costly; without guarantee of success.

Unless the board feels differently, I am taking a "move forward" approach. If an aviation museum or display is created, maybe we will be able to retrieve the murals / artifacts, but I am not pressing the issue.

I am also going to be asking PTAHA to remove their simulators from the historic hanger. Given the situation, and what has transpired over the last 3 months, their organization does not seem willing to accept the decision that has been made regarding the closure of the airport. Please speak up if you feel this should be discussed.

Logistically, the grass runway has been permanently closed as well as a section of the taxiway. We also have instated that pre-payment is required for gas, Monday through Friday from 10 am to 2pm. Once we are in receipt of payment, we will unlock the gas tanks. I, Ryan or a member of the maintenance staff will be on-call to unlock the gas tanks. This was done as response to continued nonpayment by Skydive Grand Haven and them still flying in to use our gas.

## **Coronavirus**

I continue to monitor the Coronavirus situation. Employees are starting to naturally transition back to the office, but we are still operating mostly on a skeleton / limited staff. When there is greater clarity on when the restrictions will be lifted, we will create a solid plan to re-open the office, what that looks like and how we are interacting with the public.

### **Spring Leaf Brush Cleanup**

Spring cleanup day was canceled due to COVID. Yard waste drop off dates are still in effect.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting**

Most likely, we will be meeting electronically for the next board meeting. It will be challenging as the No-Wake issue will be on the agenda. I will be working on a new platform and or changing up our security settings so that we are not “zoom boomed” again.

### **South Side Kayak Park**

We are finally going out to bid on the South Side Kayak Park. I am hoping to speed up construction, and have something available this year – but it is looking less and less likely. COVID just slowed it down so much that getting everything in order has been challenging.

### **Winstrom and Wendt Park**

Construction is expected to begin on the second phase of Winstrom shortly. We are in the midst of engineering Wendt Park as the next large park improvement project.

### **Construction Activity**

Our building department is gearing up for what looks to be a busy few months. Inspections have begun today. Both Cindy and Chad have done a great job staying on top of everything.