



# Park Township

From the Desk of Howard Fink,

Township Manager

1/8/2021

Hi Everyone. Attached is this week's management report. As always, please let me know if there is anything I have missed.

## **Strategic Planning**

Given that strategic planning has been postponed due to COVID-19, Jim and I are asking board members to identify their top three priorities for the upcoming year. This will help us in moving forward with projects and mapping out our goals and objectives for the year. I would like to bring to your attention two projects that I have been investigating / working on.

- 1) The feasibility and costs associated with installing a Rapid Flashing Beacon device on Lakeshore Drive near Tunnel Park.
- 2) Identifying a cell phone tower company to improve coverage in the area, and increase revenue for infrastructure needs.

## **Neighborhood Complaints**

There have been a few code complaints recently filed that are not enforceable; either there is no violation of any ordinance or the issue does not rise to a level of nuisance / blight. Park Township does not have many nuisance or blight ordinances, and this board and those proceeding it have been reluctant to add regulations that infringe on property rights. In the most recent example, residents are upset with a neighbor's motor home in the driveway and the accumulation of stuff in the backyard. Paul Moreland had noted, as have I that there is no violation present. Since we have received multiple calls, Paul and I have offered to be present if the neighbors wish to sit and discuss with one another their differing positions. We feel if neighbors are talking and understand each other's values / beliefs, better relations / resolutions can occur.

## **Building Inspector / Building Department**

I have preliminarily reviewed the building department revenue to determine if the Building Inspector position should be full time. While the analysis is not complete, and we need to meet as a team to discuss the issue in totality; the data does look compelling. I have asked the Building Department to further isolate some information so that we are comparing year over year costs only related to building inspections, not plumbing, mechanical and or electrical. In addition to revenue, we are also reviewing permit volume.

## **Cooper Van Wieren**

Next week, I anticipate approving a quote for \$2900 to cut in the first path at Cooper Van Wieren. I am awaiting a second quote to see if there is a cheaper option, and based on our bidding policy.

With an initial trail cut in, we can take our time in designing the full site, various uses (bikes, walking, equestrian, etc.). It also gives us time to work with the mountain biking group to identify where and how the bike trails will be incorporated.

## **Visioning Process for the Former Airport Property**

On the agenda is a memo from me regarding the visioning process for the former airport property. In addition to that discussion, it would be helpful to have some clarity on previously discussed issues; such as the restoration of the historic hanger, flight simulator, etc.

## **1397 Lakewood Boulevard**

This home had a fire on October 4, 2019 and was damaged beyond repair. We opened a complaint on 10/28/2019 which led to a dangerous structure meeting. Delays on demolition were caused by the death of the owner and Covid-19. Currently, the building has been torn down, and the basement filled in with sand. Funds for demolition come from the state fire insurance withholding program with the remainder to be paid by the estate of Sandra Smith and or levied against the taxes. Those costs are being finalized.

## **Fire Department Collaboration**

As I have discussed previously, the area fire department Chiefs and City / Township managers (and some Supervisors) have been meeting to discuss regional collaboration efforts. We are hopeful that our respective communities will agree on a scope of study to understand how we can better partner / collaborate, reduce costs and improve service. I will provide you with the draft of the study parameters when they are finalized by the MACC Working Group. At the appropriate time, I will be requesting that Park Township contribute funding to this effort.