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# GERRISH GAZETTE

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Volume 14, Issue 1

December 2011

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

### REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

Gerrish Township Municipal Center  
7:30PM

December 13, 2011  
January 10, 2012  
February 14, 2012  
March 13, 2012  
April 10, 2012  
May 8, 2012  
June 12, 2012

### SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

Gerrish Township Municipal Center

Special meetings are posted at the township hall and on the township website at least 18 hours prior to the meeting. Special meetings are held as determined necessary by the board. The Gerrish Township Board typically meets for a special work session the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00AM.

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Gerrish Township Municipal Center  
7:00PM

December 1, 2011  
January 5, 2012  
February 2, 2012  
March 1, 2012  
April 5, 2012  
May 3, 2012  
June 7, 2012

### ACT-NOW MEETINGS

Gerrish Township Municipal Center  
7:00PM

December 19, 2011 Wrap Party for Shop With a Cop  
January 16, 2012  
February – No meeting  
March 19, 2012  
April 16, 2012  
May 21, 2012  
June 18, 2012

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on an as needed basis. These meetings are typically held on Monday mornings.

### BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review meets three (3) times a year. Dates for each meeting are posted at the Township Hall, advertised in the newspaper and on the website.

## From the Supervisor,

Much has taken place since our last Gerrish Gazette was printed. Your Board has taken many steps to improve and maintain services to our citizens while remaining fiscally responsible. The costs of doing business continue to rise each day and I remain committed to being more cautious of how your tax dollars are spent. The controversial issues that have surrounded our assessing department are being resolved in an upfront manner. We hope to have closure on these problems by the new year. This is and has been one of the most trying items this Board has been confronted with. We are striving to make honest and lawful corrections as advised by the State.

The season in our beautiful area of Michigan has changed once again and many of you are preparing to enjoy winter recreation on our lakes and trails. As you are enjoying our great recreational resources, I would like to encourage you to treat our lakes, lands and trails with respect. Please be safe in your adventures and remember to leave our natural areas as you find them.

My door remains open for any and all citizen concerns.

*Frank M. Homola, Township Supervisor*

## Election February 28, 2012

The Michigan GOP Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. The Presidential Primary is the process in which voters of each Party will choose their State nominee for President. If you will be out of town on February 28, 2012, please contact the Clerk's office to request an absentee ballot. If you are on the permanent absentee application list, please ensure that we have your correct winter address.

## Assessing Update



On August 31, 2011 the State Tax Commission issued an official order assuming jurisdiction of the 2011 ad valorem assessment roll. Their action was a result of a full 14 point assessment review that the Township Board requested in order to provide a clear picture of our assessing department. The State Tax Commission order mandated that "the Township hire an outside party to correct problems with the ECF (Economic Condition Factors) development by December 1, 2011 and to report monthly to the Commission on the progress".

At this time our recently contracted Assessor of Record has been working with the State Tax Commission on newly developed ECF's. We are awaiting final approval from the State Tax Commission and will apply the changes once approved. If your parcel is affected your winter 2011 tax bill will be marked 'Adjusted Bill to Follow'. Once the changes are reapplied, we will be instructed by the State Tax Commission on how adjustments are to be processed.

## Flipping Channels?



On November 1, 2011 you awoke to find your favorite cable channels were not where you remembered. Charter Cable has made several changes to the Roscommon channel lineup. These changes included technical upgrades to Charter's digital network, increased HD programming and expansive channel offerings. Current Charter customers received notifications of these changes in early October. If you do not have a current channel listing you may obtain one by visiting [www.charter.com/channels](http://www.charter.com/channels) or calling Charter at 1-888-438-2427.

**Channel 2 is now  
Channel 97!**

## Go for a Walk

Gerrish Township is proud to have entered into a mutual usage agreement with XC Ski Headquarters of Higgins Lake. The Gerrish Township Recreational Planning Committee asked owners Bob and Lynn Frye if they would be willing to allow the cross country ski trails to be used for walking, biking or running. The answer was an enthusiastic yes, except for during firearm deer season. An arrangement was also made to allow for spring and summer parking in the XC Ski HQ parking lot. In return, a portion of the cross country ski trails that runs on undeveloped Township property will be reopened this winter.

Our Township Board and Recreational Planning Committee are very pleased to be able to bring this new recreational opportunity to our residents and visitors. Please take a walk, a jog, a bike ride or ski on the wooded, well maintained trails across from the XC Ski HQ's.

## Recycling Procedures

You may be surprised to know that we do have several 'rules for recycling'. A few more important rules are:

- Remove caps and lids from all jugs, bottles and glass containers
- Flatten cardboard and plastic jugs and bottles; crush cans
- Rinse out all containers prior to placing in recycling bins
- Remove paper from aluminum and tin cans
- Do not leave plastic bags in the recycling bins



## Save the Dates

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off dates are set for 2012. Collections will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2012 and Saturday, September 8, 2012.

## Your Association Please

The Township office is frequently contacted by interested buyers, realtors and property owners regarding local lake, dock and neighborhood associations. Most frequently we are asked for any rules and regulations that may apply. The Township does not currently maintain any formal listing and we are often unable to assist with inquiries.

The Clerk's office would like to begin maintaining an informational list of associations within Gerrish Township. This would allow us to provide appropriate information upon request. If you are a member of a lake, dock or neighborhood association we could use your help in getting this project started. Please submit the name of your association, contact information and rules or bylaws if applicable to the Clerk's office. Contact Clerk Valentino at 989-821-9313 ext 227 for further information.

## Have You Been to...?



Winterfest, a Higgins Lake Area event, is scheduled for February 17 and 18, 2012. Winterfest is a full day of fun for people of all ages and Gerrish Township is honored to participate in this year's activities. Open indoor ice skating will be available on both Friday evening and Saturday. Hot chocolate will be provided by the Chamber of Commerce. Our Vintage Snowmobile Show will begin at 10:00am on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be held at the Community Park Marina off West Higgins Lake Drive. Contact the Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce or visit [www.hlrc.com](http://www.hlrc.com) for further information on events and participation.

"It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself" Eleanor Roosevelt

## Marina Waiting List Available

The Community Park Marina is anticipating another full season in 2012. We have created a waiting list for individuals who are interested in renting a seasonal slip. Simply complete the marina registration form and mail it along with a \$25.00 non refundable deposit to Gerrish Township.

## Welcome Boz!



On October 11, 2011 Gerrish Township offered the Assessor of Record position to Brent Bosley of BAA Services. Mr. Bosley, or 'Boz' as he prefers to be called, was one of three independent contractors chosen to interview. He accepted an eighteen month contract to perform both the State mandated corrections to the 2011 roll and prepare our 2012 roll. Boz has conducted reappraisals in several Townships across Michigan, is a Michigan Certified Assessing Officer and serves as the Assessor for Fairplain Township in Montcalm County. Boz will maintain office hours at Gerrish Township on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00am until 4:00pm and is available both by telephone and email. You may reach him at 989-821-9313 ext. 222 or by emailing [assessor@gerrishtownship.org](mailto:assessor@gerrishtownship.org).

## Changes to Composting?

Our compost site has traditionally been cleared at no cost to the Township. This year, due to increased usage and rising gas prices, our clearing costs will be approximately \$3,000.00. This has caused the Township to begin brainstorming on ideas for offsetting increasing costs. Some suggestions have been commercial user charges and possible limited hours for usage. A work group will be formed in early 2012 to outline possible solutions for improvements in maintaining our compost site. If you are interested in participating or have suggestions please email Trustee Link at [trustee1@gerrishtownship.org](mailto:trustee1@gerrishtownship.org).

## Calling all Snowmobilers!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ACT-NOW Snowmobile/ATV Poker Run around Higgins Lake is scheduled for February 4, 2012. This event is a fundraiser for the annual Trunk or Treat and Haunted Trail. Participate by snowmobile, ATV, ORV or car. Visit [gerrishtownship.org](http://gerrishtownship.org) or [www.gerrishpolice.org](http://www.gerrishpolice.org) for information.

## Gerrish Township Board Members

Supervisor: Frank Homola

Clerk: Jodi Valentino

Treasurer: Leasa Tulgetske

Trustees: Mary Link and Gary Long

989-821-9313

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

[gerrishtownship.org](http://gerrishtownship.org)