



Charter Township of  
*Augusta*  
Michigan  
8021 Talladay Road P.O. Box 100  
Whittaker, MI 48190-0100

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Supervisor Brian Shelby  
Treasurer Susan Burek  
Clerk Belynda Domas  
Trustee Cath Howard  
Trustee Dennis Chie  
Trustee Ray Knick  
Trustee Chris Ortiz

## Newsletter - Winter 2018

### From the Supervisor:

I am happy to report the following:

- In April the sheriff's work program removed 60 tons of trash from our roads and ditches. They also painted the modular and stained the deck this summer. Dale-Lin Mallonen and the ACT (Augusta Charter Township) volunteers did a great job with helping the sheriffs crew to landscape around the township hall and modular. Todd Rebant and Pete Hafler helped with the new township hall sign.
- The annual cleanup on June 30 raised \$2,800 so it did not cost the township anything.
- The second annual car show had a very good turn out from the hard work Chris Ortiz and Ray Knick put together. In upcoming years the car show will, with hard work and dedication, be a great success.
- Chris Ortiz is working on the possibility of police protection for our residents.
- Ray Knick is on the fire department building advisory committee. We expect to break ground on the new fire station at Whittaker and Judd in the spring. Chief Music said we had a very good turnout for the Fire Safety open house held October 13. We have a lot of enthusiasm for the new station.
- The township held its first Halloween Trunk and Treat put together by Chris and Ray. Thanks to all who participated including our Fire Department, Lynn's Confection and Arrow Awards. We had a great turn out because people are willing to work together to bring this township back to life. It is very important we support our local businesses.
- In 2018 six blighted houses and one barn were removed with more to come. Burned out and/or abandoned houses are dangerous and can affect our property values.
- Cath Howard and I are working on a street lighting project for the villages of Willis and Whittaker.
- Cath is the liaison for Urban County.
- Dennis Chie is our liaison to the seniors at Lincoln Golden Ages and our local churches and is working on an outreach program for senior residents.
- I am working on records for Childs and Stoney Creek cemeteries. If anyone owns a lot in either cemetery, please let me know so I can update cemetery records.
- Belynda Domas and Susan Burek have worked very hard to streamline their offices. The township hall is a very positive and productive place due to the excellent staff that we have.

I would like to thank everyone on the various committees for your participation, you have the boards upmost appreciation. If anyone has ideas or projects to help the township, please bring it to our attention.

Thank you and happy holidays to all. Let's make 2019 a great year!

*Brian Shelby*, Supervisor

**From the Treasurer:**

It took us nearly two years, but I feel we have finally gotten the treasurer's office back on track. We have made a number of changes to make our office accountable and efficient, while saving the taxpayer money. We shifted cash receipt collection to dedicated part time staff for greater accuracy and to increase speedy processing to minimize your wait for payment service at the hall. The staff we have are fantastic!

My Deputy Joanne and I have worked to erase huge bank fees from Chase bank by bringing both the tax and utility collection in house. My Deputy does an incredible job providing internal controls of the cash receipting by staff and bank deposits. My job is to monitor the controls to tie it all together. We want the taxpayers to be assured their money is safe and accounted for, and these are good book keeping practices to also balance with the Clerk's general ledger. Team work!

Our latest project is to streamline the payment plan portion of the utility collection. We are looking at the processes that are in place according to our utility ordinance. In the past, the ordinance was not followed exactly or at all, and we need to clean this up. The township has been suffering huge delinquencies in collections in our water and sewer. It is a big project and I hope we will have a good progress report in the next newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank the Supervisor and Clerk for their dedication in working with my office as a team. Working with the rest of the Board of Trustees has also been a positive experience, and I feel we are all still working together as promised. My only wish is for more resident input at board meetings. The attendance is nearly zero at times. We need your help and cooperation to do our best work. We hope to see you in the future!

***Susan Burek***, Treasurer

***Joanne Wade***, Deputy Treasurer

**From the Clerk:**

I am excited to share the positive things I have experienced as Clerk this year.

First, the Augusta Charter Township Board of Trustees has shown effective financial oversight. With a timely audit, quarterly financial reporting, and proper internal controls, the township is transparent and accountable. I'm proud of the care shown to taxpayers for the wise use of their money and the accountability the Board has exhibited.

Second, the increase in Augusta Township's community involvement is invaluable. Being involved in the community means building relationships. Relationships bridge the gaps between barriers. The Board of Trustee's has representation at the Washtenaw County Level and the State of Michigan level on a regular, consistent basis. With the help of resident volunteers, the Township held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Clean Up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Show and its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat. A huge "Thank You" to everyone that helped... together, we can make a difference!

Third, Township residents may have noticed some new election inspectors at their precinct's during the August and November elections. It is exciting to announce that Augusta Township recruited eight new election inspectors! It is very satisfying to see the number of registered voters continue to increase in Augusta Township.

Finally, nothing can be accomplished without teamwork. The staff and deputies at Augusta Township Hall are the backbone we rely upon day to day. I'm very grateful and fortunate to have them.

***Belynda Domas***, Clerk

***Kim Gonczy***, Deputy Clerk

***Michael Bartley***, Election Manager