

MAD RIVER Township News

SPRING 2016

BRENT LAUGHMAN

Trustee

H: (937) 788-2529

C: (937) 605-8628

BrentL@madrivertwp.org

DAVE RILEY

Trustee

H: (937) 788-2000

C: (937) 215-7696

DMriley@madrivertwp.org

MIKE WARD

Trustee

H: (937) 653-6150

C: (937) 869-4170

mward61@ctcn.net

RICHARD FORD

Fiscal Officer

H: (937) 215-7660

Rford@madrivertwp.org

BOB PURK

Zoning Inspector

C: (937) 710-5451

Purkr@madrivertwp.org

MAD RIVER TWP

2773 Vance Road

(937) 788-2183

madrivertwp.org

Monthly meetings

1st and 3rd Thursday

7:30 PM

INFORMATION AVAILABLE 24/7



Would you like to know how to rent the township hall for an event? Do you need information about the township cemeteries? Maybe you want to watch what you missed at a township meeting. All of that information, plus more, can be accessed on the township website, www.madrivertwp.org.

UPCOMING ROAD PROJECTS

We have been working to repair the roads as fast as funds are available. We are responsible for 35 miles of the roads in our township. Ideally we would pave all with hot mix asphalt on a rotation and repair in between paving with crack seal and hot mix strip patching.

Unfortunately we don't receive enough money from current sources to keep up with Mother Nature and have to compensate with chip and seal.

Every third year the county is in our area for road repairs and this is the year they will be available. We try to do as much chip and seal as needed when they are here because private contractor prices are 40% higher or more than the county.

Roads expected to receive work this summer include, but are not limited to Willdowdale Road, Terre Haute Road, and Dogwood Drive, Beldon Drive, Country Road, Neff Road, Woodburn Road, Zerkle Road, Troy Hill Road, Eris Road, Deer Creek Drive, and Conrad Road. For a complete list of roadwork and its cost, see the table inside this newsletter.

MAD RIVER TWP PASSES BIENNIAL AUDIT

Every two years the Ohio State Auditor's office audits the township for the prior two years to make sure we are in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. In 2015, they audited the 2013 and 2014 fiscal years and we are happy to report the audit went extremely well and we came through with flying colors! You can view the detailed audit report on our website under the Audits tab.

FROM YOUR FISCAL OFFICER

Over the past two years it has been my pleasure to serve Mad River Township as the Fiscal Officer, and I want to thank the voters for allowing me to continue to serve the township for the next four years.

Some have asked what's involved in the Fiscal Officer position. The quick and simple answer is that you have to take care of all of the township records and all of the financial transactions and budgets of the township. Of course those that are Fiscal Officers around the state or have been a Fiscal Officer will chuckle at that answer because that is where the simple part ends.

As the township fiscal officer, my duties include: Annual Tax Budget (revenue budget), Annual Appropriations Budget (expense budget), paying bills, payroll, payroll taxes and reports, taking deposits to the bank and posting them to our accounting software, preparing agendas for meetings, taking minutes, submitting financial reports for meetings, creating cemetery deeds, updating cemetery records, filing records, responding to record requests, posting required legal notices, year-end close and starting the new year (includes year-end Financial Reports with notes, filing reports with County Auditor, etc.), and the list goes on...

This year the State decided to add another task to the list by requiring townships to complete their own notes to the year-end financials, which, in the past were completed by the State Auditor's office. The eight page document for 2015 can be viewed on the township website under the Financial Report tab.

Hopefully this gives you a broad look at the tasks that a Fiscal Officer does for the township.

FISCAL RECORDS EASY TO ACCESS

Over the last few years the Auditor of State has been developing ways to be more transparent with government spending. As part of this initiative, they developed an on-line check book site that allows Ohio government agencies to upload their check book to this site at no cost.

In 2015, townships were given the opportunity to participate in this on-line check book, and we are pleased to say that we were one of the first townships to participate.

We now have 3 years of data on the site, fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015. To view our online checkbook, there is a link on the township website under the Financial Report tab, or, you can also gain access: <https://madrivertownshipcampaign.ohiocheckbook.com/>.

TRUSTEES SHARE CEMETERY DUTIES

Mad River Township has three active cemeteries that have grave lots available for purchase. Grave sites are \$400.00 each at all three cemeteries. If you would like to purchase a grave site, or have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the designated trustee/trustees for that cemetery.

Nettle Creek Cemetery

Corner of State Route 560 and Nettle Creek Road
Mike Ward: (937) 869-4170

Myrtle Tree Cemetery

State Route 36 at Myrtle Tree Church
Dave Riley: (937) 215-7696 or (937) 788-2185
Brent Laughman: (937) 605-8628 or (937) 788-2529

Terre Haute Cemetery

State Route 55
Dave Riley: (937) 215-7696 or (937) 788-2185
Brent Laughman: (937) 605-8628 or (937) 788-2529

For more information about cemetery regulations, visitations, or costs, please see the township website under the Cemeteries tab.

HOW IS THE TOWNSHIP DOING FINANCIALLY?

Below is a snapshot of our Township Financials for 2015. This is intended to only give a general overview. If you would like specific information or more detailed look, please contact Richard Ford and he can work with you to get you more details. In addition you can take a look at our Annual Financial Report for more details and notes. You can find those reports on our website under the Financial Report tab.

Some things to note:

1. Government budgeting does not allow you to spend money from one fund on another fund with the exception of the General Fund. The General Fund can transfer money to another fund or purchase items for another fund.
2. The excess in the General Fund and Fire Fund is currently being invested to provide interest income to help generate revenue.
3. There was a one-time state allocation of around \$10,000 in the General Fund revenue in 2015, that we will not receive in 2016.
4. There was a refund of \$11,824 on estate tax revenue received in 2013 which shows in the expenditures category of the General Fund. Actual expenditure minus the refund was \$70,491.
5. We spent \$6,377 from the General Fund for a mower as part of a trade for the Cemetery Fund.
6. We carried over some of the capital outlay budget (major road repair money) so that we could save money on the cost of road work. The reason is that the County can perform the work at a significant savings compared to private vendors; however, some years the County cannot perform the work for our township if they are working on the other end of the county. As a result, they could not do the work in 2015, but can in 2016. Example of the savings is that a private company charges around \$18,000 per mile to chip and seal compared to the County which does it at a cost of around \$11,000 per mile. We have 35 miles in our township so you can see that it is a significant savings (\$245,000 savings if we did all 35 miles).
7. In the Bequest Fund there is \$20,900 that is principal and is not spendable. We can only spend the interest for the purpose specified.

Fund Name	Beginning Fund Balance	Revenue	Expenditures	Fund Balance 12/31/2015
General	\$451,044.86	\$90,132.34	\$82,315.91	\$458,861.29
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$11,871.79	\$12,724.05	\$5,660.94	\$18,934.90
Gasoline Tax	\$89,802.92	\$89,854.03	\$43,129.23	\$136,527.72
Road and Bridge	\$73,091.80	\$60,577.81	\$35,552.21	\$98,117.40
Outside Road	\$113,234.40	\$100,661.74	\$56,559.34	\$157,336.80
Cemetery	\$17,234.24	\$38,154.96	\$22,380.68	\$33,008.52
Fire District	\$158,808.04	\$77,690.16	\$65,746.98	\$170,751.22
Street Lighting	\$2,091.89	\$2,866.63	\$2,934.41	\$2,024.11
Permanent/Cem Bequest	\$24,041.95	\$310.26	\$291.04	\$24,061.17

FROM YOUR ZONING INSPECTOR

Spring is upon us and with that comes warmer weather, outdoor activities, and building projects. A few reminders when planning those building projects:

- anything over 120 square feet needs a building permit.
- always contact the Health Department to have a site inspection: 937-484-1605

Information required before you build:

- Set of detailed drawings of proposed structure you're planning to build.
- Copy of legal description of property: either in written form or survey map form.
NOTE: If you don't have a copy, you can obtain one from the Auditors Office.
- Setbacks: Setbacks are the distance (in feet) from the property lines, and the road right-of-way lines, to the proposed building site.

Once you have obtained the information above, you will then need to contact the Zoning Inspector to set up a time to meet at the Township Building to review the information and obtain a Zoning Permit. Once a Zoning Permit is written, you will then need to take that information to the Champaign County Building Regulation Department to obtain any permits required by them. As always, before you build, please contact your Zoning Inspector with any questions you may have.

Bob Purk, Mad River TWP Zoning Inspector
purkr@yahoo.com ▪ (937)710-5451

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT ZONING IN MAD RIVER TWP

The township has zoning rules and regulations to protect you and your property from your neighbor, and your neighbor from you. We try to do this with as little government red tape as possible. After all, we work for you! Please be a considerate neighbor and maintain your property.

Your zoning board is responsible for overseeing zoning rules and changes to zoning. The current zoning board is made up of members John Steinberger, Russ Carney, Neil Stevens, Gerald Blair, and Alex Ward.

Your zoning appeals board is responsible for helping you when your needs don't comply with current zoning or you don't agree with the zoning rules. The current zoning appeals board is made up of members Mark Navarre, John Ridder, Bruce Johnson, John Bruce, and Steve Bricher.

The zoning rules and regulations are available at the Champaign County Library, the township building, www.lucplanning.com, or from your zoning inspector.

USE OF TOWNSHIP BUILDING

If you're looking for a venue for your next group gathering, the township building, located at 2773 Vance Road, is available for rent. The hall has a capacity of 80 people, is climate controlled – both heat and air conditioning – and comes with folding chairs and nine eight-foot tables. It features a full kitchenette – equipped with refrigerator, stove, microwave, sink, and cabinets for storage.

The shop area is also available if additional space is required (at additional cost). The building is a great, handicap accessible space for church functions, graduation parties, family reunions, and bridal and baby showers. For pricing and availability, please see our website, or, contact a trustee.

OFFICIALS WORK HARD TO SAVE YOUR MONEY

Since January 2014, we have made changes from the past to save tax payer money.

The township uses hourly workers to keep up with all that needs done. Our current temp workers are Dennis Bok, Everett Keller, Ron Kauffman, and James Riley. They help with work on road repairs like pot holes, sign repair, berm gravel, trees and brush, bush hog side roads, equipment maintenance, and most often the cemeteries cutting grass and weed eating. They average 1900 hours on roads, and 1100 hours on cemeteries per year.

We use very little hourly help for the average 25 to 35 burials a year, to help reduce cemetery costs. We do a larger percent of equipment repair ourselves than in the past. We apply for grant money where available. We purchased a used propane tank to be able to get competitive pricing for heating costs. We installed security cameras to eliminate fuel and tool theft and emergency exit signs and lights to reduce liability issues with your township building with the help of grant money applied for and received in each of the last three years.

The township receives significantly less revenue than in the past because of state changes, the economy, and death tax law removal. We have reduced health, life and disability insurance provided to your elected officials from \$36,610.00 in 2013, \$8,724.00 in 2014, \$1,566.00 in 2015, and expected \$0 in 2016.

HOW MUCH DOES THAT COST??

The average annual cost to maintain your roads per year is \$198,000.00.

The average annual cost to maintain your cemeteries per year is \$29,000.00.

The average annual cost to maintain your equipment per year is \$12,000.00.

CHANGES TO FIRE/EMS SERVICES

Your current fire and EMS providers are JSP (Johnson-St. Paris) and German Township.

We had three Fire and EMS tax levies in the past, the third being Urbana Township. When one of those came up for renewal last year, we chose to let it expire since we still have two, and an excess in the fund that can only be used for Fire and EMS costs. We will continue to reduce your taxes and lower township expenditures where we can in the future.

You can reach Fire and EMS for emergencies by calling 911. If you have questions for them you can reach JSP at (937) 663-4532 and German Township at (937) 969-8994.

Your Fire and Ems providers would like to encourage you to purchase and install the green reflective address signs for your home if you haven't already. They are available at many places including Lowe's and Home depot for less than \$15.00 and will help them to save your life or a neighbor's life.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT AIDE IN SAVINGS

Equipment purchases have been low recently; instead, current pieces have been repaired and maintained. We had a truck bed rust off at the hinges while plowing snow but were able to have it repaired at a significant savings over cost of new bed. We had a snow plow repaired on one that was falling off, again, at a considerable savings over new.

The recent purchase of a zero turn mower has been made to further reduce cemetery maintenance cost. Part of the funds came from trading in the previous mower and part from not trading in all mowers every year, as in the past. It has cut mowing time down and we hope to trade in another one if funds are available to further reduce costs. We work every day to continue to spend your money wisely and with care.

WHAT DOES A TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL DO?

One of the main duties of a township trustee is to provide and maintain township roads, which includes paving repairs, crack sealing, chip and seal, snowplowing, and the control of grass and weeds along the roadways. Most paving repairs, crack seal, etc. are outsourced due to the township not having the equipment or personnel to get the repair done in a timely fashion; however, snowplowing has been done the last two winters by two trustees with no help from seasonal workers in an effort to save funds and reallocate them to road repairs.

Another responsibility of a township trustee is maintaining the township-owned cemeteries. This includes making sure that cemeteries are mowed and maintained, selling of grave lots, opening and closing of graves, and pouring of foundation bases for headstones and military markers. Our cemeteries are financed from the Mad River Township Cemetery fund. This fund consists of fees from the sale of grave lots, fees collected from opening and closing of grave lots, and fees collected from headstone and military foundations. Starting in 2014, two trustees have committed to being personally involved with the day-to-day operations of their respective cemetery. This includes trustees opening and closing grave lots and pouring the foundation bases for headstones to reduce labor costs so that the taxpayers do not have to be asked to pass a cemetery levy to maintain cemeteries.

Another responsibility of a township trustee is managing personnel. Township trustees can hire employees as necessary to execute the duties and functions of the township and provide for wages for such employees. In 2015, Mad River Township had five seasonal workers to utilize for road repairs, mowing along roadways, and mowing cemeteries; their wages totaled \$26,676.50. Two trustees meet with the workers on a daily basis to give them their daily job assignments and to make sure that they have what they need to work in a safe, productive manner to reduce costs.

These are just some of the responsibilities of a township trustee. Other duties include, but are not limited to: Board Meetings (bi-monthly), concerns and complaints that need addressed from township residents, competitive bidding on purchases, scheduling of township hall rentals, negotiating fire protection contracts, maintenance of township building and grounds, and working with the fiscal officer on Annual Appropriations Budget.

Most recent salaries for township officials:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Brent Laughman	\$10,287.96	\$10,287.96
David Riley	\$10,287.96	\$10,287.96
Mike Ward	\$10,287.96	\$10,801.92
Richard Ford	\$16,977.00	\$17,613.75

We would like to thank all residents for their continued efforts to pick up trash and maintain the grass on all their road fronts, especially large farmers since they have so much road frontage. The more you are able to do the more money we have available for road repair and paving.

TWP HOSTS MOBILE RECYCLING

The first Wednesday of every month, Mad River TWP hosts a mobile recycling unit at the township building from 12:00 noon to 2:30 PM. Early drop-offs are not permitted. Items left at the township building when the truck is not present are considered illegal dumping; the parking lot is monitored by video camera.

Collections will be cancelled if there is a level 1 or higher weather emergency, also the collection site may be closed temporarily due to severe weather conditions. This is for your safety and the safety of the workers. Additional information on what are acceptable/unacceptable items can be obtained by contacting North Central Ohio Solid Waste District at www.ncowaste.org or contacting Susan Helterbran, Program Coordinator, Champaign-Shelby Counties, 937-484-1549 or email recycling@co.champaign.oh.us.

ROAD WORK COMING IN SUMMER OF 2016

Below is a list of all township-maintained roads that will be receiving some type of repair and/or maintenance in the near future. If you would like more details about the upcoming roadwork, please contact any of the trustees or the fiscal officer. Estimated Costs Below:

Road	Chip and Seal	Fog Coat	Strip Patching	Crack Seal
Vance				\$8,950.00
Bair	\$36,448.43			
Coffin Station	\$25,916.59			
Conrad Road	\$8,776.53		\$199.50	
Eris	\$10,469.89		\$923.40	
Neff	\$10,635.09		\$209.00	
N. Hampton Donn.	\$7,351.64			
Rhodes	\$17,449.81			
Stoney Creek	\$23,645.01			
Terre Haute Road	\$11,667.63		\$228.00	
Troy Hill Road	\$6,608.21		\$1,912.50	
Willowdale Road	\$17,140.05			
Woodburn	\$5,998.69			
Zerkle	\$2,787.84	\$608.16		
Belden Drive	\$604.03	\$131.76		
Conrad Drive	\$1,161.60	\$253.44		
Country Road	\$5,833.81	\$1,272.72	\$5,688.20	
Deer Creek Drive	\$1,510.08	\$329.52		
Dogwood Drive	\$2,869.15	\$625.92	\$600.00	
Grayson Drive	\$2,671.68	\$582.96		
Phillips Circle	\$4,994.88	\$1,089.84		
Walnut Grove Circle	\$1,277.76	\$278.88		
Willow Heights Drive	\$1,974.72	\$430.80		
High Street	\$528.00	\$115.20		
Nettle Creek Road			\$1,153.30	
County Line Road			\$190.00	
Smith Road			\$756.20	
Terre Haute Cem.	\$12,584.00	\$1,440.00		
Terre Haute Alley	\$1,015.00	\$221.52		

MAD RIVER

Township

2773 Vance Road
St Paris, Ohio 43072