

MIKADO TOWNSHIP NEWS

SUMMER EDITION

2023 sees changes, changes, and more changes!

This year has been a year of changes for Mikado Township. It began early, with Wayne O'dell being appointed Fire Chief to replace the previous Chief Regina Waszkiewicz, then shortly after, on February 17th Supervisor Mike Corn and Clerk Leisa Sutton resigned their positions on the township board. Three days later at a special meeting, Mary Harmon, a previous supervisor, was appointed to finish Corn's term, while Deb O'dell, a previous Clerk, was appointed to fill Sutton's position. Rita Sands, also a previous Clerk, agreed to serve as Deputy Clerk. After two months O'dell was forced to resign as Clerk due to a reoccurring health condition and at that time Rita Sands agreed to take over the position as Clerk. The next task of the township board was to appoint a new Zoning Administrator and Ordinance Enforcement Officer, as Regina Waszkiewicz had resigned that position as well. At the March monthly meeting the board fulfilled this task by voting in Craig Ostby for both vacancies, the meeting also brought a change in the day upcoming meetings will be held; monthly meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Mikado Civic Center. Meetings are always open and we invite you to attend, we are looking for people interested in township leadership as 2024 is an election year for township officials, so now is the time to consider becoming involved. The last page of this newsletter contains the names, phone numbers, and email addresses where your current township officials can be reached.

Hello, I'd like to introduce myself if you don't already know me, I am your new Mikado Township Zoning Administrator and Ordinance Enforcement Officer. My name is Craig Ostby and my family relocated here when I was a young 12-year-old boy back in 1972 from St. Clair Shores, just north of Detroit. I moved away not long after high school but moved back later in life, always spending many weekends and holidays in Mikado. We moved back to Northeast Michigan in 2009 (Hale) and back to Mikado in 2017. Now that I am semi-retired, I wanted to give something back to the community.

If you are in need of a land use permit or have any concerns regarding ordinance compliance, please contact me at the phone number or email address listed below. I look forward to meeting you and being of service.

Craig Ostby,
Zoning Administrator/ Ordinance Officer

Email: zoning.mikado.twp@gmail.com

Phone: 989-335-1948

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire department has been busy the first half of 2023. We have responded to 53 incidents as of May 30 with 48 of the incidents being medical in nature. The department went from a low of 7 members in mid February to 18 members currently. Our training officer has begun working with our new members to get them trained. So you will see our firefighters and equipment at our training facility on F-30 at least once or twice a month throughout the summer. As we train twice a month. We will be working to have our Trucks tested and all maintenance done before winter. We can always use more volunteers, If you are interested in becoming a firefighter you can stop by the fire station on the first or third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm or I can be contacted at 989 335-8292. I hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer, please be careful with any outside fires and fireworks as you celebrate or nations birthday.

Wayne Odell
Fire Chief

**PUBLIC NOTICE
JULY BOARD OF REVIEW
FOR MIKADO TOWNSHIP**

**MIKADO CIVIC CENTER
2291 S. F-41 MIKADO, MI. 48745
Wednesday, July 19, 2023
Beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

If no appointments have been received by 5:00 p.m. Friday July 14 th the meeting will be cancelled. For an appointment, please contact the assessor at (989) 736-7689

The purpose of this meeting is for correcting clerical errors, mutual mistakes of fact and qualified errors. The July Board of Review also has the authority to grant disabled veterans' exemptions and poverty exemptions. Qualified Disabled Veterans or their unmarried surviving spouses may file for an exemption on the 2023 tax bills for the property that they own and occupy as their homestead. Affidavits and supporting documentation must be filed with the assessor by July 14th. Property owners may apply for a poverty exemption on their principal residence if they have not already applied for the poverty exemption during the 2023 calendar year. A completed application for consideration of a poverty exemption must be submitted to the Assessor prior to July 14th. Application forms may be picked up from the assessor's office.

Nancy Schwickert
Mikado Township Assessor

**Mikado Township
Policy for
Accessibility to Assessor's Office**

The estimated response time for taxpayer inquiries is seven (7) business days.

Requests for an in-person meeting with the assessor may be made verbally and/or in writing to the Assessor.

Requests for public inspection and/or copying of public records maintained by the assessor's office by a taxpayer may be made verbally and/or in writing to the Assessor. The inspection and/or copying of public records shall take place at a mutually agreed to time and date, at the Mikado Township Hall/Civic Center, 2291 S. F-41, Mikado

**Mikado Library
Branch Hours**

Mon-Thurs 2pm-6pm

**Located in the
Civic Center**

Hello to each of you. It is with pleasure that I serve the residents & property owners of Mikado Township once again. The Clerk's Office is temporarily located in the Mikado Civic Center in the conference room. I do not have permanent hours yet, but expect to have them set in the near future for your convenience. You are welcome to call the number listed below with concerns or questions and I will return your call when I hear the message.

One of my important responsibilities is the record keeping of the township cemetery. If you wish to purchase a plot for future needs, please call and we can make an appointment to meet out there. I can also give you directions on how to find a deceased buried in the cemetery.

There is an election planned this fall for those in the Alcona School District, held November 7 at the Civic Center. Remember, it is only for those residents who live in the Alcona Schools District.

We are in search of an individual who would like to commit to this elected office of Clerk. It is an important office, as the Clerk is responsible for all of the record keeping for the township. The Clerk has the official accounting record of all income and expenses and must reconcile with the Treasurer each month. The Clerk processes payroll for all employees and files the quarterly reports for all withholdings necessary. As mentioned above, the Clerk is in charge of the cemetery and all elections held in our township. This is not the end of your responsibilities but if you are curious, I would be glad to answer any questions. I have appointed Jesus Yruegas as my Deputy Clerk. If you are serious about the possible commitment of Mikado Township Clerk, "Yogi" would not mind stepping down and having you appointed as my deputy. You would be assisting me in the duties of the Clerk until election time 2024, where you will have the opportunity to run as a candidate for the Office of Clerk in Mikado Township.

If you have any questions, please call the Clerk's Office. If I don't have an answer, I will either find the answer or give you the phone number of someone who could best help you.

Rita D. Sands, Mikado Township Clerk, P.O. Box 60, Mikado, MI 48745. (989) 736-7721
mikadotwpclerk613@gmail.com

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Mikado Township Planning Commission is currently working on updating the Master Plan under the guidance of Resource and Community Planner, Rick Deuell. The Master Plan is a tool for the guidance of township development, maintenance, and Zoning Ordinance decisions. It is expected that a Proposed Master Plan will be available on the website after the June 8th Planning Commission meeting and that copies will be made available to the planning commissions of each contiguous local unit of government as well as the Mikado Township Board. There will be a 63 day period for receipt of any comments from aforementioned units.

Furthermore, the Planning Commission will be working with Chief Planner Denise Cline to update the Zoning Ordinance to better fit Mikado Township. Utilizing the updated Master Plan, Mrs. Cline will help us develop zoning policies based upon public health, safety, and welfare of the citizenry. One of the things we anticipate is the addition of a Blight and/or Abandoned Property Zoning Ordinance. As the process plays out, there will be public hearings on the Zoning Ordinance. We anticipate a public hearing for both the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance in November or December of this year; we will likely schedule the hearing(s) at our September 7th, 2023 Regular Quarterly Planning Commission meeting.

Carrie Mullins
Planning Commission Secretary

MIKADO CIVIC CENTER

Have you been in the Civic Center recently? If so, you have probably noticed the first of some upgrades and repairs the township board has opted to do utilizing a portion of the "covid" ARPA funds Mikado Township received. The most noticeable so far, is the complete repainting of the interior of the hall. This included the main room, entry and the restrooms. This ambitious project was coordinated by Kaye Lovelace with two shifts per day which included Goodfellow members, board members and community volunteers. Many thanks to all who helped. The next upgrade will be completed in July, consisting of a new roof & flooring. Of the five bids received, Hartman Roofing & Maintenance Inc. was selected to complete the roofing portion. Simultaneously with the roofing project, new flooring will be installed inside the hall. The final phase of the upgrades will be renovations to the kitchen. Some redesigning as well as equipment changes will make the kitchen much more efficient. We look forward to the completion of these projects in an effort to make our hall much more appealing to all.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Supervisor:	Mary Harmon	harmonmikadosup@gmail.com	989.335.8569
Clerk:	Rita Sands	mikadotwpclerk613@gmail.com	989.736.7721
Treasurer:	Ruth Travis	mikadotreasurer@gmail.com	989.736.6231
Trustee:	Wayne Nedo		989.736.6649
Trustee:	Carrie Mullins	mikado.twp@gmail.com	989.736.8558
Assessor:	Nancy Schwickert	mikadotwpassessor@gmail.com	989.736.7689
	2836 E McNeil Rd		
	Lincoln, MI 48742		
Fire Chief:	Wayne O'Dell		989.335.8292
	PO BOX 55		
	Mikado, MI 48745		
Zoning Administrator/Ordinance Enforcement:			
	Craig Ostby	zoning.mikado.twp@gmail.com	989.335.1948

Please visit our website:
www.mikadotownship.org

And follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/MikadoTownship

Official Mailing Address
MIKADO TOWNSHIP
PO BOX 60
MIKADO, MI 48745