

From the Desk of
Audrey Nevins-Weiss

Financial Update

Spring is here and April 1st is the beginning of Byron Township's fiscal year and also the beginning of our new budget. Byron Township's economic and financial outlook is the best it has ever been. Through conservative budgeting we are once again able to provide quality services to our residents with a balanced budget. The township's growth is essential in providing services for our community.

Public Safety Improvements

In 2015 both Cutlerville and Byron Fire Departments added full time firefighters for the stations. Cutlerville Fire Department is available 24/7. The Cutlerville Station responded to 1785 calls in 2015. The Byron Fire Department responded to 705 calls. I am very proud of our dedicated and professional firefighters.

New Emergency Crisis Team

I will be forming a new committee this year called the Byron Township Crisis Team. This committee will include Todd Szakacs, our Public Safety Officer who is also the Fire Chief for the Byron and Cutlerville Departments. Other members will include Kent County Sheriff's Deputy, Andy Jonkman our Community Law Enforcement Officer, and firefighters from both the Byron and Cutlerville Fire Departments. Also joining the committee will be Township Trustee Tim Slot. This team will be evaluating various facilities within the township that can be used in the event there was a natural disaster, tornado or other weather-related event. Residents will be notified of where they could go for protection if their home were impacted. I pray we will never need to implement such action, but it is always important to plan ahead in the event a tornado was to touch down in the township.

Household Chemical Collection and Free Landfill Coupons

Saturday June 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon residents may bring any household hazardous waste to the Township Offices. Byron Township is partnering with Kent County SafeChem Summer Collection program and the collection site will be in the lower level parking lot of the Township Hall.

Landfill coupons are available for residents during the month of April. Coupons are available at the Supervisor's office 8085 Byron Center Ave.

Once again my office is always open. I encourage residents to stop in or call my office at 878-1222. It is a pleasure serving the people of Byron Township and helping to make our community a wonderful place to live, work and raise our families.

Clerk's Corner
Joel H. Hondorp, Clerk

Upcoming Elections

August 2 – Primary Election

The primary election is used to narrow candidates down by party. The Republican and Democrat candidates will be on the ballot, but you must limit your votes to only one party – no crossing over.

November 8 – General Election

You may choose any candidate of your choosing on this ballot up to the number to be elected to office.

Absentee Voting

Please call my office if you have the desire to vote absentee and fit the following qualifications: 60 years or older, absent from the community on Election Day, physically unable to attend the polls, prohibited from attending due to religious beliefs, in jail awaiting arraignment or trial, or working as a precinct inspector on Election Day. You can also download a form from our website or the Secretary of State's website. You may also request an absentee application by calling my office at 878-9104 or emailing me at jhondorp@byrontownship.org.

You can check your registration status and where you vote at www.michigan.gov/vote.

We had a record turnout for the March Presidential Primary! My projection was 30% to 33% turnout. We ended up having a 45% turnout! If you want to see past election results for Byron Township, you may see those on the Clerk's Election page on www.byrontownship.org. Go to Clerk and then Elections.

Notary Service

If you have the need for Notary Service, we have four notaries on staff and we provide the service at no charge. A notary is available usually Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Bring your unsigned documents and proof of identity.

Treasurer's Forum
Carol Houseman, Treasurer

Electronic Payment Services

Electronic Payment Services are available on the Township website, www.byrontownship.org. Township property owners can initiate payments from their checking, savings, debit, or credit card. Make sure that you are in the right department before processing your payments. There is a convenience fee to use the services. For your checking and savings accounts, it is 0.25 per transaction. We are working to get debit and credit transactions reduced from (3-4%) to 1½% for debit and 2¼% for credit cards. We hope to have lower fees in place by the start of the 2016 Tax Cycles.

Account Information

You have the ability to check your property information.

ASSESSING – TAXES – WATER & SEWER – ALL PAYMENTS

To access these records: log on to www.byrontownship.org and click the Treasurer on the left side. Once on the Treasurer's Page click on the "Byron Property Database" on the left. Choose the database that fits your needs. You can search by Owners Name – Address – or Parcel Number. The records are available back to 1996. This information is helpful for your tax returns.

As always, you can reach Jacki or me at 878-3196 or just stop into the office. We are happy to help you.

From the Desk of the Water & Sewer Administrator

Fire Hydrant Permits / Filling Your Swimming Pool

The Byron-Gaines Utility Authority has a new policy regarding hydrant permits. You will no longer be able to use a hydrant within the Township for 1 day fills. You will have to go to the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority and use their Metered Hydrant. The reason for this change is not only to have more water accountability, but also to minimize the damage to the Township's hydrants. The fee for a day use is \$60.00; please call 616-971-0002 for hydrant questions and pool filling permits.

Irrigation Meters

If you use a large volume of water for the purpose of sprinkling your lawn or filling your swimming pool, please consider a separate meter. With a second meter you would not be billed for sewer usage when you irrigate your lawn or fill your swimming pool. For example, if you sprinkled your lawn over a billing period of 3 months using a total of 80,000 gallons, the sewer use charge alone would be about \$200.00 without a second meter. The actual meter and inside plumbing inspection would cost approximately \$625.00. You can either do the plumbing yourself or have a plumber plumb in the spacer bar in accordance with the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority Set Drawings. All forms and drawings are at: www.byrontownship.org, or at the Township Offices.

New Resident Information Form

If you are new to Byron Township or if the name "Occupant" appears on your bill, you will need to come into the Township Offices to fill out a New Resident Information Form. You can find the form at www.byrontownship.org, and email it to: debbie@byrontownship.org.

2015 Water Quality Reports

You may view a copy of the current Water Quality Report at: http://www.gainestownship.org/departments/docs/Current_Water_Quality_Report.pdf

To request a paper copy of the current Water Quality Report call: 616-878-0660

Utility Bill Payment Options

1. You may mail in your payment to: P.O. Box 264, Byron Center, Mi. 49315
2. You can use the 24 hour drop box located on the East side of the Township Offices - 8085 Byron Center Ave.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 11 Township Board Meeting
- 18 Planning Commission
- 25 Township Board Meeting
- 27 Board of Appeals

MAY

- 9 Township Board Meeting
- 16 Planning Commission
- 23 Township Board Meeting
- 25 Board of Appeals

JUNE

- 13 Township Board Meeting
- 20 Planning Commission
- 22 Board of Appeals
- 27 Township Board Meeting

JULY

- 11 Township Board Meeting
- 18 Planning Commission
- 25 Township Board Meeting
- 27 Board of Appeals
- 28-31 Byron Days Festival

3. **You can pay in person at the Treasurer's Office, Mon. – Fri., 8am -5pm.** with cash, check, money order, or credit card **plus convenience fee.** We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover.
4. Credit card payments plus convenience fee, as well as E Checks can be made at: www.byrontownship.org. Please **allow 2-3 days for processing. All payments accepted after 5pm will not be posted until the next business day.**
5. Another option you have is to sign up for Automatic Funds Transfer; the amount due will be taken directly out of your checking or savings account around the 20th of the month that your bill is due. Forms are available at: www.byrontownship.org, or at the Township Offices. **There is no fee for this service.**
 - **Payments must be received before 5pm. on or before the due date or they are late.**

Paperless Billing

Customers can receive bills by email. Sign up for paperless billing by emailing me your property address and letting me know that you would like to go paperless, debbie@byrontownship.org

This is perfect for customers that go out of town often, or for long periods of time. The Post Office will not forward Utility Bills.

- **Please be aware that water bills are sent to you quarterly, if it was misplaced in the mail you are still responsible to pay by the due date. You can view all of your account information at: www.byrontownship.org.**

Water Shut Off for Non-Payment

The shut off procedure is for customers who have delinquent water and sewer bills. This process has kept a large amount of delinquent usage from going to the winter tax bill.

Here are the steps we follow:

1. The water bill is sent out at the beginning of the month with a due date 30 days later.
2. If the account is not paid in full by the due date on your bill you will receive a 5.40% penalty on the amount owed on the account.
3. If the account still has a balance approximately 10 days after the bill was due, a shut off notice will be mailed with a "date due by" to avoid shut off.
4. If a balance remains on the account after the steps outlined above the Byron – Gaines Utility Authority will post a door hanger. You will need to pay the balance within 5 days or a \$50.00 shut off fee will be applied to the account and the water will be shut off the next day. This gives the customer almost 3 months to pay their bill before the water is shut off.

Remember that your water bill is a lien on your property.

A list of agencies that may help families with water shut off notices can be found at: www.byrontownship.org

For more water and sewer information go to;
www.byrontownship.org, or call 616-878-0660.

Have a great summer!

Debbie Jensen