

THE PAR PLAN NEWS

ISSUE 128

DECEMBER 2017



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~ Seasons Greetings ~

In warm appreciation of our association during the past years, the Par Plan Board Directors extend our very best wishes for a happy holiday season and thank each of you for being a member of our program.



downtown Petoskey's city square

Notice of MTPP Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

The Michigan Township Participating Plan's quarterly board of directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 26, 2018 at The H Hotel, 111 W. Main Street, Midland, Michigan. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Indigo 1 room located on level one of the Hotel.

Par Plan seats new Directors

MTPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Zone 1

Paul Lehto

Calumet Township
(906) 337-2410

Zone 2

Marvin Besteman, Jr.
Kinross Charter Township
(906) 495-5381

Zone 3

Glen Lile, Vice Chairman
East Bay Charter Township
(231) 947-8719

Zone 4

Joanne Donaldson
Markey Township
(989) 366-9614

Zone 5

Jennifer Venema
Caledonia Charter Township
(616) 891-0070

Zone 6

Gary Brandt
Monitor Charter Township
(989) 684-3366

Zone 7

William Walters
City of Brown City
(810) 346-2325

Zone 8

OPEN

Zone 9

William Bamber, Secretary
Oceola Township
(517) 546-3259



*Jennifer Venema - Zone 5 Director
Clerk, Caledonia Charter Township*

Jennifer has served the Charter Township of Caledonia community for 11 years. Jennifer is an active member of many organizations including the Kent County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association, Kent County Clerks Association, and the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks where she currently serves as 3rd Vice President. Jennifer has earned the Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk designation from the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and the Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Jennifer also serves her community as a Commissioner of the Kent County Fire Commission, a position she has held since 2013.



*Gary Brandt - Zone 6 Director
Trustee, Monitor Charter Township*

Gary currently serves as Trustee and as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for Monitor Township. Gary previously served as the Township Supervisor for twelve years. During his tenure as supervisor Gary joined the Michigan Association of Township Supervisors (MATS) and was elected to the MATS Board of Directors where he served as Vice-President and President until his term expired in February 2017. Gary also served his community as a Monitor Township Fire Department volunteer and First Responder.

The Michigan Township Participating Plan's next grant cycle will open April 1, 2018 and will close May 31, 2018. Please be sure to apply. You may visit our website www.theparplan.com and download our grant guidelines and frequently asked questions to get started. Please note that grant requests will not be accepted before April 1, 2018.



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What Happened to Summer?!!

Tips to Get Your Buildings and Equipment Ready for Winter

Well, another beautiful Michigan summer has come to a close. The hustle and bustle of heavy tourism traffic, parades, and warm weather festivals has now ceased for the more quaint sights and sounds of local patrons and traffic once again.

The end of the summer season may be a bitter pill for many to swallow, but for others it breathes new life to a season of cooler temperatures, smells of apple cider, falling leaves, and the inevitable first snowflake of winter. It is during this time of the year where certain “to-dos” must be done to prepare for the times ahead.the cold times.

Many of the “to-dos” I speak of relate to preparation of properties and storage of equipment your entity may own and insure. You want these items to be safeguarded and maintained in a way that your entity can enjoy them for months or years to come.

The following is a short list of items to keep in mind when you’re preparing for the colder months ahead.

The largest investments your entity may have is probably buildings and structures. Be it a Township Hall, Fire Hall, or a 10 x 10 tool shed at your cemetery, all these structures must be reviewed and made ready for the coming months.

First things first, it is recommended that heat (if applicable) should never be completely shut off in structures that have some form of water source. Some entities turn down the heat in buildings as a form of cost savings when not in use. Keep in mind lack of heat brings about freezing and lack of heat in a structure breeds the potential for ruptured water lines and quite the hefty expense for clean-up which many times could exceed the initial cost savings of leaving the thermostat on. If your entity is worried about the cost savings factor then it is recommended the heat in the structure be left above the point of freezing to both keep those water pipe temperatures up and the heating bills down.

Another item to keep in consideration is access to your structures. If any person is going to frequent your building(s) during the winter months it is recommended that your entity keep access points (walkways, ramps, emergency exits, etc.) free from obstruction. This would include maintaining these areas for snow removal as well and salting / sanding the access points to alleviate potential injury and / or property damage of the user. By frequenting, I mean those attending entity governmental meetings, employee's keeping office hours in the building, or even those who use the building(s) for social events such as weddings, baby showers, civic group meetings, etc.

If you contract a third party person or company to perform cold weather duties for your entity such as snow plowing or shoveling; this is a good time to put these items out for bid or finalize bids already considered. It is recommended that any third party contractor that is chosen for these tasks sign a written contractor agreement including a hold harmless clause as well as furnish proof of liability insurance naming your entity as an additional insured prior to the start of any activity. Your entity should store these records. If you are retaining the same person or company from previous years it is still recommended to request an updated agreement and any applicable insurance documentation that would cover the life of the service provided prior to the start of the task(s).

This is also a time when you may be trading the lawn mower for the snow blower. Proper long term storage maintenance is critical to preserving the working life of any piece of outdoor equipment. Items to consider include examining and repairing any damage sustained during the previous months, draining any excess fluids, removing any dirt / grime / grease from the equipment, unhooking or removing the battery if applicable, and storing the equipment in a dry place out of the harsh weather elements.

Always consult your equipment’s manufacturer for any long term storage questions or concerns

In conclusion, this article only covers a small sample of the items that your entity should consider in regards to cold season preparation. Just like the seasons themselves, each entity is different and has its own “to-do” list for the coming months. Whatever your list includes be it long or short, remember a few “to-do’s” today will help to alleviate a lot of “headaches” later.

STAY WARM

By: Mike Morin, MTPP Risk Control Field Representative



MEDICAL MARIHUANA **Have you “Opted-In” or “Opted-Out?”**

The future of medical marihuana will see the light of day come December 15, 2017. Many entities have heard speculating stories about the amazing financial futures medical marihuana will deliver. Other entities are choosing to remove themselves from the situation and not participate in medical marihuana at all. As December approaches, have you asked yourself “are we prepared?”

There are many stories regarding the licensing process, setup fees, and operational costs associated with medical marihuana. Experts believe the setup costs are going to reveal determined companies, individuals, and customers who are willing to invest the needed amount of money into these operations. Supporters of medical marihuana have financial determination to see this process through. As dictated by the State of Michigan, the new process will involve five (5) different categories. Each category will require specific zoning ordinances and regulations per each overseeing entity should the entities decide to “Opt-In” or “Opt-Out”.

You may be asking yourself, “Does our zoning support all five categories?” or “why would anyone want to do something like that in our little township?”. There are no simple answers to these questions. People in the medical marihuana industry have been working on this for years, and now the day will finally arrive come December. Companies and financial backers see this as a once in a lifetime opportunity. They will seek out land, roadways, and infrastructure to support their needs. Townships with part time employees, townships with no set office hours, or townships with County controlled zoning operations could find themselves buried with licensing requests, zoning issues, and upset constituents.

To “Opt-In” or to “Opt-Out” is the primary basis of this article and the prime focus of the preparation process. Reviewing these documents in detail will provide you with a map on how to approach medical marihuana. The Michigan Township Association and their legal consultants have developed sample letters to assist entities with the formalization of their medical marihuana decision. As many of you know, documentation is first and foremost. These letters provide the State of Michigan, the medical marihuana licensing board, and the public with a clear understanding of your position regarding medical marihuana operations within your entity.

Until December arrives, changes regarding medical marihuana could evolve. As I write this article, some new wording or process could suddenly be enacted. Therefore, completing these letters can greatly assist your township’s future with respects to medical marihuana. The Michigan Township Association (MTA) has developed sample “Opt-In” and “Opt-Out” letters to help guide entities through this process. You may contact the MTPP Risk Control department to obtain these sample resources via e-mail at ldalach@tmhcc.com or jwilliams@tmhcc.com

Once you pass the resolution specifically showing you “Opted-In” and/or “Opted-Out” you should properly notify the State of Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Department (LARA) via first class mail. Completing this act will solidify your position regarding medical marihuana operations within your township’s borders.

I understand entities have been informed in the past, that by not addressing medical marihuana, you are essentially not participating with the medical marihuana industry. This is true to some degree, but completing the referenced letters will provide formal documentation that cannot be debated or misunderstood. A fear amongst the professional community is participants of the medical marihuana movement will use the lack of documentation to show the entity does not have a formalized process in place. The entity could then potentially expose themselves or have to deal with medical marihuana through their zoning operations. When the problem rises to this level, it can become very complicated and expensive to deal with. “Opt-In” and “Opt-Out” letters are free and maintained within a word document for easy use. The “Opt-In” and/or “Opt-Out” letters, township board meeting minutes, and a certified letter mailed to the State of Michigan LARA Division will effectively communicate to the medical marihuana community your entities official stance.

In conclusion, medical marihuana is a moving target. Everyone within the State of Michigan is trying to ensure this process is fair to all, and there will be some trial and error. Maintaining a documented dialog (board minutes of presentations, legal demonstrations, and/or general public comment) can assist entities in the decision process. December is right around the corner. The licensing process has the potential to be very demanding on a small part time entity. Having your paperwork completed (“Opt-In” and “Opt-Out” letters) can efficiently assist you in dealing with licensing requests going forward.

All documents need to be mailed to State of Michigan, Medical Marihuana Facilities, Licensing Division, P. O. Box 30205, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

By: Dustin Drabek, MTPP Risk Control Field Representative

