



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

Township Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 8 am to 4 pm

We will be CLOSED

July 4—Independence Day

September 3—Labor Day

November 12—Veteran’s Day

November 22 & 23—Thanksgiving

How to contact your Cooper Township Officials & Staff

Supervisor Jeff Sorensen supervisor@coopertwp.org

Clerk DeAnna Janssen clerk@coopertwp.org

Treasurer Carol DeHaan treasurer@coopertwp.org

Assessor Kim Kars-Bos kkars@coopertwp.org

Assessing&Planning Assistant Julie Muller jmuller@coopertwp.org

Deputy Clerk Debbie Holtman dholtman@coopertwp.org

Treasurer’s Assistant Connie Herweyer cherweyer@coopertwp.org

Fire Chief Terry Emig temig@coopertwp.org

Deputy Chief Brian Klok bklok@coopertwp.org

Ordinance Enf John Cross jcross@coopertwp.org

Ordinance Enf Charlie Stack cstack@coopertwp.org

Many questions can be answered at our new and improved website www.coopertwp.org. In addition, please feel free to email or call the office anytime at 269-382-0223.



The Township Board made the decision on 5/21/2018 to discontinue operation of all but one water spigot in both cemeteries. This will be effective immediately in West Cooper Cemetery. The ONE working spigot that is available to cemetery visitors is the one at the well house in the South “circle” drive. East Cooper Cemetery will go down to one spigot as additional repairs become necessary in the future. This small inconvenience saves thousands of dollars in repairs every year and allows the board to continue offering low cost grave site options to our Cooper Township residents. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding!



2018 Fall Curbside Bulk Pickup!!

October 8—12

ITEMS SHOULD BE PUT OUT TO THE CURB NO LATER THAN SATURDAY THE 6TH OR SUNDAY THE 7TH!!

Curbside Reminder: Properties without a residence are **NOT** eligible to use the curbside recycling or participate in the Bulk Pick-up in the spring and fall.

[The recycling assessment is assessed on residences only!](#)

2018 STYROFOAM DROP SCHEDULE



Township Hall Parking Lot
1590 West D Ave 8am—12pm

Jan 6, March 24, June 23, Sept 22

Clean separated peanuts, egg cartons, clean/dry to-go food containers, etc. Used oil is no longer accepted.

Planning / Zoning Questions?

Russ Wicklund is the Cooper Township Planning/Zoning Administrator. His office hours are Wednesdays from 1-3pm. You can drop in to see him or call the Township Office to make an appointment! Otherwise you can reach him by phone at 269-781-4999.

REMINDERS: Consumers Energy will purchase your old energy-wasting fridge or freezer for \$50 should you be making a change. Schedule your free and easy pickup at

ConsumersApplianceRecycling.com.

Scrapper John is available for other metal pickup options. Feel free to call him at 1-334-309-5195.



ELECTION UPDATE - Shiny new election equipment has arrived and we are ready for training to begin for the upcoming **August 7 and November 6** elections. Election workers have been sent information regarding mandatory training that will include their bi-annual training as well as new equipment training. If you are an election worker and haven't received this information, please reach out to the clerk's office ASAP to get scheduled!

Thank you in advance to Bethel Baptist Church, Northbridge Community Church, and Coopers Landing for your donation of precinct locations. Cooper Township staff and residents truly appreciate your generosity!

Residents—as a reminder, polls open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm on Election Day. If you have questions about your voter registration, Absent Voter Application or Ballot, or precinct location for in person voting please contact the clerks office at 269-382-0223!

DeAnna Janssen, Clerk

Republic Services Acceptable/Unacceptable Items for Spring & Fall Clean Ups!!

Acceptable—All bagged and containerized municipal solid waste but please don't use anything but clear plastic bags. All bags and containers must weigh less than 50lbs. Larger items such as furniture, toys, bicycles, appliances*, home fixtures and any other items as long as they are considered non-hazardous. Building materials, doors and sections of fencing must be cut down to fit into the truck and can be lifted by one person. Latex paints must be dried up in containers using saw-dust, kitty litter or just leave the can open for a few days. Wheel rims and small car parts are allowed. Mattresses infested with bed bugs MUST be wrapped in plastic and labeled. Republic will basically pick-up most everything placed at the curb as long as it is prepared in "manageable bundles", bags, boxes and containers. They are not allowed to unload vehicles or trailers. The exceptions are included below.

Unacceptable—Large Plastic Drums, concrete, large pieces of metal, yard waste, liquid waste, hazardous waste, tires (unless cut up into flat pieces), tires on rims, non latex paints and varnishes, motor oil & solvents, batteries, medical waste, large car parts such as engine blocks, bodies, oversize hoods and doors. While Republic will take certain amounts of construction debris, they will not be able to remove large volumes such as garage or house demolition that would normally require a construction style dumpster.

*Appliances that contain freon, such as refrigerators and air conditioners, can be accepted if the freon is removed and the appliance is "tagged" by a facility that is licensed to remove freon.



In 2017 Cooper Township had 321 permits issued, from new construction to old structures being torn down plus everything in between, and it appears 2018 is off to an even better start.

The Assessing Department will be reviewing properties and updating photo's. On occasion the Ordinance Officer will assist with some of these projects. Please

be aware all township employees conducting field work will have appropriate documentation and a photo ID. If you have questions about this please call the township hall for verification.

Processed land divisions created 33 new parcels in Cooper Township for 2018!! If you're interested in splitting or combining any properties please stop into the township hall and get an application or look at an aerial of your property to see what options you might have. A new aerial fly over was completed this spring! This is the township hall and fire station as well as Sleemans Auto on the corner of Douglas Ave and D Ave.

2018 Summer Tax Bill

The summer tax bill you're receiving is due by September 14, 2018. Additional interest of 1% per month accrues beginning September 15, 2018.

If you plan to mail your tax payment, please consider using our drop box (located to the right of our front door) or dropping it off at the post office in a secure receptacle. We have all read the stories about criminals stealing mail out of rural mailboxes in order to commit different types of check fraud.

At this time Cooper Township Office doesn't accept credit or debit card payments. Online payments can be made through Official Payments at www.officialpayments.com. Our jurisdiction code is 7131. Please be aware.....[Official Payments charges a 3% convenience fee for this service.](#)

Whether you send in a check or initiate an online payment through your bank, please call our office or check online at www.coopertwp.org to confirm that your payment was received. We have had several instances recently when our office has not received the payment. This results in your account being turned over to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer's Office as delinquent which means additional interest and penalty that you will be responsible for.

When paying in the office, if possible please remember to bring your bill with you. We make every effort to save money and trees by re-printing as few bills as possible! If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Carol DeHaan, Treasurer, at 269-382-0223.

Sanitary Sewer Feasibility Study – Project Update!

The Sanitary Sewer Feasibility Study was completed in May and a proposed project service area was selected to be included in a funding application to the USDA. The study considered seven discrete service areas and eight combinations of some or all of those service areas to identify the most cost-efficient project. The selected project service area includes most of the developed, yet un-sewered, areas in the south east corner of Cooper Township – see the map on the next page. Submission of a funding application to USDA does not obligate the Township to proceed with a project.

Needs and Rationale for Implementing the Project:

Nutrient Pass-Through – Approximately 90% of Nitrates and 10% – 25% of Phosphorous pass through septic systems and enter the groundwater and ultimately the nearest surface water. This degree of pollution occurs with a properly designed and operated septic system and is worse for substandard systems.

Housing Density – In areas of high housing density such as the area along Riverview Drive and Keyes Drive, the impact of individual septic systems overlap, adversely affecting the groundwater.

Minimum Setbacks for Septic Systems – There is not enough room on small lots to meet current septic, drinking water well, and building setbacks.

High Groundwater – The distance from the septic system (tile field) to the groundwater table significantly impacts the rate of nutrient pass-through. In areas of high groundwater, expensive mound systems (\$9,000-\$19,000 for a new mound system) are required.

Increased Water Usage – Lifestyle and water consumption patterns have changed in the past 30-40 years. Sewers allow use of dishwashers/garbage disposals/washers/showers without the risk of overburdening old and under-designed septic systems.

Statewide Septic Code – Likely to be adopted in the future, a proposed statewide code would find many current septic systems inadequate.

Property Values – Sewers have had positive effects on property values, increasing values in excess of sewer assessments. Property taxes cannot increase due to increased property values associated with sewer installation and will only increase once a property is sold and the taxable value uncapped.

Property Use – Removal of septic systems and raised beds allow property owners to use these land areas for other purposes.

Savings – Project timing coincides with a Road Commission project. By combining the sewer and paving projects, the community's dollars are maximized.

New Roads – In most areas, residents will reap the additional benefit of repaved streets.

Property Owner Costs:

There will be four costs associated with implementation. The costs are defined below.

Monthly Rate - This is a fixed monthly charge to cover costs for the operation, maintenance, replacement and capital costs of the system.

Front Foot Fee - This would be a one-time fee assessed to each property/buildable parcel, served by or with access to the system, proportional to the length of a property's road frontage. Only the longest length will be considered for parcels with frontage on more than one road.

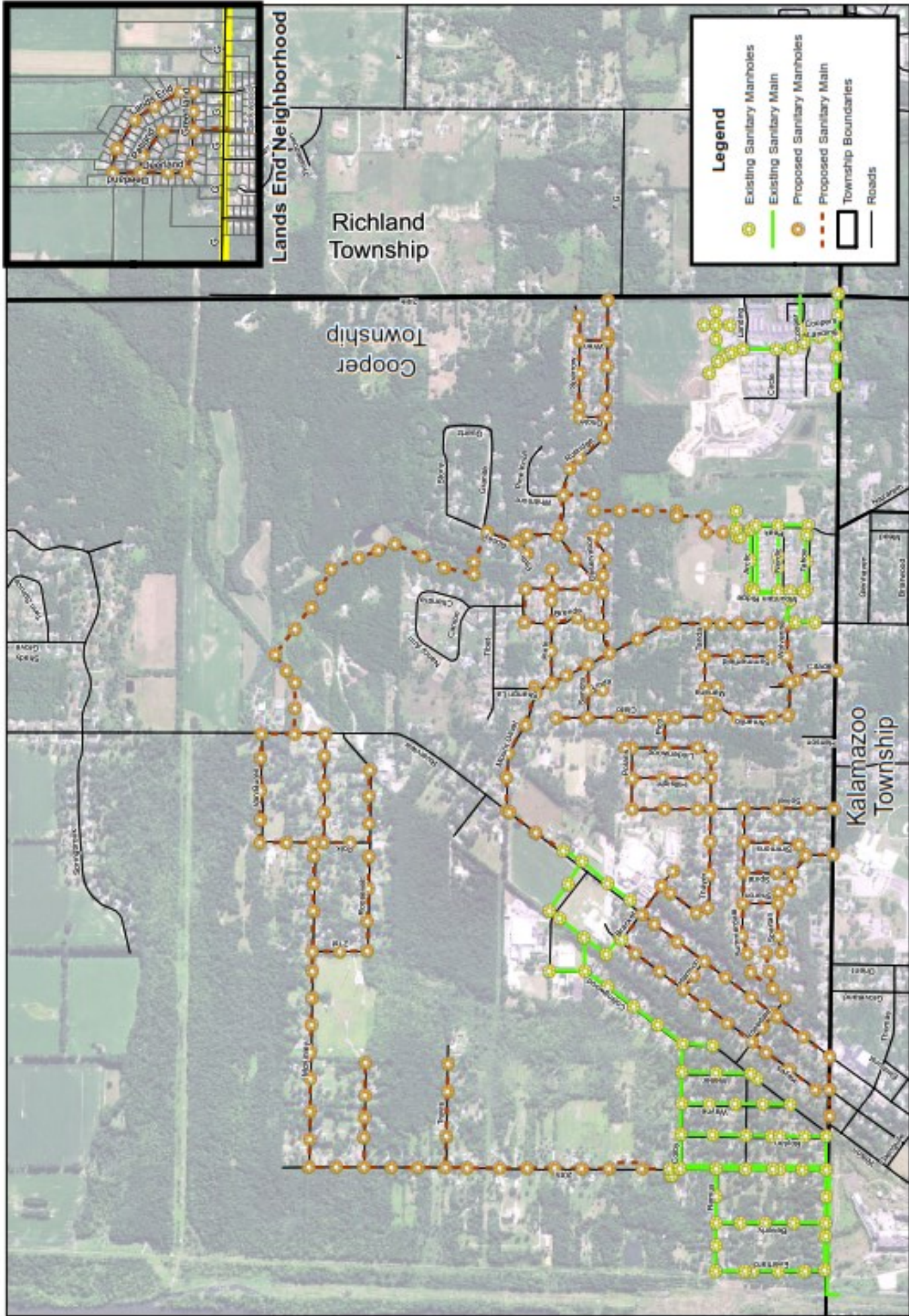
Benefit Fee - This would be a one-time flat fee assessed to each customer who connects to the system.

Service Connection Costs - The homeowner is responsible for hooking up to the sewers from the house to the street and abandoning the existing septic system. The estimated cost for this item, including a 75-foot long connection is \$1,275.00.

Complete estimates of costs to homeowners and more information on project timing will be forthcoming as they are finalized.

Lastly, the Township Board at the June meeting passed a Resolution of Intent to proceed with a proposed project. Notices for a public hearing on July 17 will soon be mailed to affected property owners. The public hearing will be an opportunity for those affected directly by the project to come and hear more details about the project and present feedback.

As always, never hesitate to call Township Hall if you are interested in learning more about this or other matters.



PROPOSED SEWER COOPER TWP
01/18/2018

WIGHTMAN *it's all about people*
COOPER CHARTER TOWNSHIP
USDA-RD FEASIBILITY STUDY

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