



NEWAYGO PUBLIC SCHOOL TAXES TO BE COLLECTED IN SUMMER BEGINNING IN 2009

The Newaygo Board of Education has requested that Brooks Township collect their school taxes on the summer tax bill. This would include the 7 mills for the debt retirement and the 18 mills for non-homestead property. As many of you remember, the collection of school taxes in the summer from 1983-93 was well received by the community as it lightened the burden of the tax bill received in December. This all changed with the passage of Proposal A. The Brooks Township Board approved the schools request at their September board meeting.

Why did the School Board do this? The first State Aid payment is not until mid-October and school begins the first of September. This creates a cash flow problem (not enough cash on hand to pay for supplies or make payroll) therefore, the Board was forced to borrow money. This money is borrowed on the anticipation of State Aid payments and this loan is usually for about nine months.

The cost of borrowing is a considerable amount of money and most of it would be a savings to the district and most importantly create a positive cash flow. Looking at the borrowing cost for 2007-08, had there been a summer tax collection, the savings to the Board would have been approximately \$25,360. Since the Board would not be borrowing money it would be receiving interest from the summer tax collection through investments. Being conservative on estimate, the Board could possibly earn \$35,000 to \$40,000 in interest annually. This would mean a net savings to the Board of approximately \$60,000 to \$65,000. This is basically a shift of taxes from the winter bill to the summer bill. There is no extra cost to the Township to do this. This collection will begin with the summer billing in 2009.

If you have any questions regarding this change please contact Christina Haynor, Brooks Township Treasurer, at 231-652-6763, ext. 130

ELECTION NEWS

The General Election will be held on November 4, 2008. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots are available at the Township office. To receive an application and ballot please contact Jennifer Badgero at 231-652-6763, ext. 110.

Challenging Times for the Library

(submitted by Dennis Caplis, Carnegie Library Director)

Today, two words, deficit and deadline, summarize the major challenges facing the Newaygo Area District Library (NADL).

Deficit: The Library receives its operating funds from three main sources: 1) penal fines, 2) grants, 3) appropriations from district member municipalities.

1) Penal Fines: This money is derived from penalties for traffic violations and other civil infractions. It is distributed by the County Treasurer on a per capita basis, but the amount available to distribute varies from year to year, which makes it very difficult to budget for the future. For example, NADL received \$7,345 less in penal fines in 2008 than it did in 2006.

2) Grants: Grants accounted for fully one third of the Library's income in 2007. In fact, without the generosity of the Fremont Area Community Foundation and the Amazing X Charitable Trust, the Library could not afford to renew its collection or put on the Summer Reading Program. Without grants there would be no new children's books, no new large print or audio books, and no new magazines. Simply put, with just the current level of public support, the Library could not provide a fundamental resource that every library should provide: an updated collection of materials.

3) Appropriations: When Garfield and Brooks Townships and the City of Newaygo formed NADL in 2005, they planned to support the Library with a millage approved by the residents of the district. To provide operating funds until the passage of the millage, the townships and the city set up an interim funding mechanism. The city would contribute the net proceeds of a one mill tax, and the townships would make appropriations based on a formula of \$10.55 per capita. Because the Library's November millage proposal was not approved, this arrangement has continued. Intended to provide "bridging" funding, this formula does not fully meet the needs of the Library, which, for the last two years, has had to use its reserves to cover significant budget deficits.

Deadline: The current district library agreement contains a deadline: an operating millage of at least 1.6 mills must be passed by November 30, 2008 or the district library dissolves at the end of the year. Given the current condition of the economy and the rising cost of living, the Library Board determined that a millage proposal (which is costly to put on the ballot) would be unlikely to pass; and so the Board will work with the members of the district in an effort to revise and extend the agreement to maintain NADL as a district library. The extension will allow the Library to look for new sources of funding for current operations as well as planning for a new facility. Information on those plans will appear in a future newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE COOLBOUGH NATURAL AREAS

Brooks Township received a \$5000 grant from The Fremont Area Community Foundation on behalf of the Coolbough Natural Areas. The grant was used to build a pavilion for classroom groups. It was also used for benches, signage and restroom facilities. The pavilion was built using volunteers and their equipment. They included Jon Bumstead, Dennis Hearth, Warren Bender, Mark Pitzer, Les Salacina, Gary Twining and Bob Hanlon. These individuals gave up 2 days of their time to see this project through. The Coolbough Management Commission and the Brooks Township Board would like to say "Thank You."



BROOKS TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

September	16	Township Board Mtg.
	22	Planning Comm. Mtg
October	21	Township Board Mtg.
	27	Planning Comm. Mtg.
November	4	General Election
	18	Township Board Mtg.
	24	Planning Comm. Mtg.
	30	Winter tax bills mailed
December	9	Township Board Mtg.
	15	Planning Comm. Mtg.
January	20	Township Board Mtg.
	26	Planning Comm. Mtg.
February	17	Winter taxes due
	17	Township Board Mtg.
	23	Planning Comm. Mtg.
March	1	2009 Assessment Notices are mailed
	17	Township Board Mtg.
April	23	Planning Comm. Mtg.
	21	Township Board Mtg.
	27	Planning Comm. Mtg.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

If you have not paid your summer taxes please be reminded that they are still payable to the Brooks Township Treasurer until March 1, 2009. There is a 1% penalty per month until they are paid. They may be paid online at www.officialpayments.com or by phone, 800-272-9829. Use the jurisdiction code #7057. There is a charge by the credit card company for this service. Winter bills will be mailed on November 30, 2008 and are due on February 17, 2009.



Brooks Township Office
P.O. Box 625
490 Quarterline
Newaygo, MI 49337

Brooks Township Meeting Dates and Times

Brooks Township Board

Third Tuesday of the Month

Les Salacina , Supervisor

Jennifer Badgero, Clerk

Christina Haynor, Treasurer

Phil Knape, Trustee

Marc Libants, Trustee

Planning Commission

Fourth Monday of the Month

Jim Dutkiewicz

Mike Bouwer

Jon Bumstead

Adam Wright

Mark Pitzer

Mike McHugh

Marc Libants

Sheryl Nelson

Ruthann Brunsting

Zoning Board of Appeals

Meets as needed

Dick Besser

Christina Haynor

Frank Janusz

Cory Nelson

Mark Pitzer