

Watson Township Newsletter 2025

Watson Township
1895 118th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010

PROPERTY TAXES

To avoid interest and penalties, please pay Summer Taxes by **September 14th** and Winter Taxes by **February 14th**. Postmarks are not accepted. After **March 1st**, all unpaid taxes become delinquent and must be paid to the Allegan County Treasurer.

In person, payments can be cash or check. Pay online with debit or credit. <https://watsontownshipmi.gov/>

PAY PROP. TAX

RECEIPTS are no longer automatically mailed to taxpayers due to the increasing costs of postage, paper, and printer ink. Your canceled check is your receipt. If you require a receipt, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope or include your email address when mailing your payments. Payments are recorded based on the date received, not the date written on the check or the postmark on the envelope. If a check is not honored by the bank, the tax is unpaid and subject to penalties and/or interest and a returned check fee will be assessed.

Dog Licenses are available from the Allegan County Treasurer.

OFFICE HOURS

Supervisor: By appointment – supervisor@watsontownshipmi.gov

Clerk: Statutory Hours during elections, otherwise by appointment – clerk@watsontownshipmi.gov

Treasurer: Statutory Hours pursuant to Public Act 641 of 2002 and Public Act 126 of 2011. Otherwise, discretionary hours will be posted on the Township Office door during tax collection months. If you have questions you may call the township office at 269-672-7254. The Treasurer is also available on most Monday evenings after 4:00. treasurer@watsontownshipmi.gov

Township Assessor: First 4 Wednesdays of the month 9 am – 12 pm

Contact Information: Kevin Kutscher Phone - (269) 672-7254 or (269) 673-9616

Closed on all US Government holidays

DROP BOX AT WEST ENTRANCE

Watson Township

Incorporated February 16, 1842

Newsletter 2025

www.watsontownshipmi.gov



THE RED TEAM



Pumper Engine #411 at HAFD Station 2 - Watson

The Township – through its collaboration with the Hopkins Area Fire Department (HAFD) – was able to obtain a new pumper truck Engine 411 for HAFD Station 2 – Watson. The new truck and equipment cost \$654,954, and Watson Township's portion was 26% or just over \$170,000. Watson Township has one of the lowest local millage rates in Allegan County – as of last year only Wayland Township (who receives a large portion of gaming revenue sharing) was lower. Our partnership with HAFD allows us to make large fire expenditures while keeping tax rates down to bring more value for our residents.

Our township is also proudly served by Martin Township Fire through a service contract. Their service area is generally east of 14th street from 124th – 112th. Both departments provide mutual aid. Our community is benefited greatly when **ALL** departments see themselves as **THE RED TEAM**.

A big thank you, chi miigwech, to the Gun Lake Tribe and Gun Lake Casino for the generous gifts of two retired vehicles from their public safety department. These cruisers are now first-responder EMS vehicles serving Hopkins Area Fire Department and Wayland Area EMS.



Squad 5 at HAFD Station 2 - Watson

COMMUNITY STANDARDS TEAM

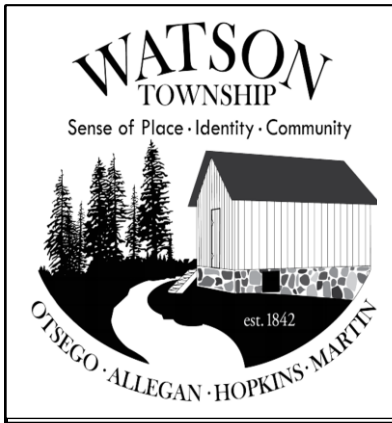
Watson Township is a Zoned and Planned Community, which means the use of land is regulated in accordance with a master plan to help prevent conflicting uses. Professional Code Inspections of Dorr (PCI) handles building and zoning permits, and special use permits, and violations thereof. Watson Township has also implemented police-power ordinances that regulate activities on the land that include *Noise*, *Junk Cars*, *Gatherings*, *Dangerous Buildings*, and *Litter and Blight*. Take the time to read the Township ordinances and bring your property into compliance to avoid incurring any citations or cleanup costs.

COURT IS A LAST RESORT – be a good neighbor and let's help each other!

Call or Email: **Watson Officer:** 616-367-7031 codes@watsontownshipmi.gov
PCI: <https://pcimi.com/contact> 616-877-2000

ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Allegan County issues, please contact County Commissioner Gale Dugan, Phone: (269) 694-5276
gdugan@allegancounty.org



CLEAN-UP DAY

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

May 17, 2025

9 AM. – 2 P.M

For clean-up days Non-residents may bring **METAL ONLY**, NO NON-METALLIC TRASH. Scrap proceeds go to the HAFD.

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

Hall rental is \$60 for township residents and \$120 for non-residents. Hall rental is **FREE** for non-profit groups, clubs, organizations, and funeral luncheons. If you would like to rent the Township Hall call **HALL COORDINATOR MICHELLE HARRIS** at 269-217-5971 mharris@watson-townshipmi.gov

NO SMOKING and NO ALCOHOL

TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor

Kevin Travis

supervisor@watson-townshipmi.gov

Clerk

Mary Ann Baker

clerk@watson-townshipmi.gov

Treasurer

Tera Davis

treasurer@watson-townshipmi.gov

Trustee

Michelle Harris

mharris@watson-townshipmi.gov

Trustee

Joseph Yearous

jyearous@watson-townshipmi.gov

**FOR OTHER BOARDS SEE
THE WEBSITE**

www.watson-townshipmi.gov

BURN PERMITS

Burn permits can be obtained by calling the automated phone line at 269-686-5222 The burn permit is good for one day only, and that is the day that you call. This permit is good for brush, shrubs, and leaves only. You must have a source of water nearby and the fire must be attended at all times. If the burn gets out of control and requires a fire department response you may be held liable for any costs incurred.

LIBRARIES

Watson Township residents are served by both the Hopkins and Martin libraries. If you have any questions or want to volunteer please contact:

Hopkins Library:

793-7516 www.hopkinspl.michlibrary.org

Martin JC Wheeler

672-7875 www.wheelerpl.michlibrary.org

ELECTIONS

For questions about elections, absentee voting, or early voting please call the Clerk or email clerk@watson-townshipmi.gov

RECYCLING

For recycling questions or pickup dates please refer to the County Health Department <https://www.allegan-county.org/health/resource-recovery-and-recycling-program/find-your-recycling-information>

CEMETERIES

Sexton/ Foundations: Corey Irish 269-532-0179 / Mark Simpson 269-366-7288

Watson Township has two township cemeteries – **Hicks** (located on the corner of 14th St. and 117th Ave.) and **Miner** (located on 20th just south of 118th). Please find our ordinances posted online or at each cemetery.

Fees for Cemetery Lots:

Resident: \$100 **Non-Resident:** \$400 **Number of Cremations per Grave:** Two (2)

Grave Openings:

Resident: \$500 **Non-Resident:** \$500 **Infant:** \$250 **Cremation:** \$100
Monument charge if moved: \$100 **Foundations:** \$0.75/ square inch.



Thank you to **Michigan Career & Technical Institute** for creating the new sign at the Township Hall. We are happy to provide opportunities for learning!

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

For questions (**or complaints**) regarding roads in Watson Township, email Craig Atwood, rcrcraig@alleganroads.org or call 269-673-2184

MEETING DATES May 2025 – April 2026
Watson Township Board @ 7 pm

April 10, 2025
May 1, 2025
June 5, 2025
July 10, 2025
August 7, 2025
September 4, 2025
October 2, 2025
November 6, 2025
December 4, 2025
January 8, 2026
February 5, 2026
March 5, 2026
April 9, 2026

Planning Commission @ 7 pm

April 23, 2025
May 21, 2025
June 18, 2025
July 16, 2025
August 20, 2025
September 17, 2025
October 15, 2025
November 19, 2025
December 17, 2025
January 21, 2026
February 18, 2026
March 18, 2026
April 15, 2026

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Organizational meeting is the 1st Tuesday in March.
All other meetings as noticed.

Board of Review: The March Board of Review begins their work on the Tuesday following the first Monday in March. Appeal meetings of the March Board begin on the 2nd Monday in March. The required first appeal meeting on the second Monday in March must start no earlier than 9 A.M. and no later than 3 P.M. The Board must meet for a minimum of 6 hours that day. The Board must meet a total of at least 12 hours during that first week and at least 3 hours of the required sessions must be after 6 P.M. See the notice in the Allegan County News for exact dates and times.

WAYLAND AREA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

WAEMS serves all of Watson Township. A membership program called Vital Care is available for township residents. Applications are available at the township hall or online at the Township website www.watsontownshipmi.gov For more information call WAEMS at 269-792-2958.

Mission: To provide exceptional pre-hospital care and education for the rural communities we serve, through the formal cooperation of local governments and dedicated volunteers.

NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS

Legal Notices are published in the Allegan County News

**ARTS, CULTURE, &
RECREATIONAL EVENTS**

WILD THYME MUSIC FESTIVAL

Will return in **June 2025!**

DIRTY DONUT RACE

The fastest growing bike race in Michigan returns to our beautiful township Saturday June 21, 2025. The Dirty Donut is the first event of its kind to be held on dirt roads. This race has 5 different distances of 10, 22, 42, 62, and 100 miles.

Nearly 1,000 bikers will be racing courses that feature Watson Township
<https://dirtydonutraces.com/>



PARKS AND RECREATION



In 2023 our township was **one of 15** communities in the State of Michigan to receive the Michigan DNR Passport Grant (and **one in 7** to receive the grant in full for \$150,000). This generous gift will jumpstart improvements to Seven Generations Park.

Groundbreaking Spring 2025!

Anticipated Grand Opening – October 2025!

TOWNSHIP FLAGS

Show your Sense of Place, Identity, and Community!

2'X3' Watson Township Flags are available for purchase at the Township Hall for **\$25.**