

Sciota Township Newsletter

Summer
2005

Sciota Township Board meetings are held at the Sciota Township Hall, 3990 Leland Road, (at Bennington) the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Township residents are always welcome and encouraged to attend and provide your Board with input.

Township Board 2004-2008

Phillip Matthews, Supervisor
651-5387

Nancy Koerner, Clerk
651-5540

Eric Schuman, Treasurer
651-5788

Norma Lee, Trustee
651-5457

Matt Stahlin, Trustee
651-5385

Township Assessor

Ron Goetschy
323-4489

Board of Review

David White
Vaughn Vondrasek
Clyde Casler

Planning Commission

William Thelen, Chair
Matt Stahlin
Doug Walker
Floyd Koerner
Phillip Knapp

IT'S SUMMER TAX TIME

My, the time sure does fly quickly doesn't it? Enclosed you will find your 2005 summer tax bill which includes the State Education Tax (SET) and 1/3 of your county taxes as well.

Again, save yourself time and gas, and pay by mail. I have enclosed a mailing label for your convenience. These are the new forms and are much more "user friendly". They are perforated on the top third. **Simply, tear off at the perforation and keep the lower half as your receipt along with your cancelled check.** To pay your Summer Tax Bill, please use the enclosed label and send your check or money order, made out to "Sciota Township Treasurer", to:

7928 Tyrrell Rd.
Laingsburg, MI 48848-8720

Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt along with the lower portion of the tax bill that you keep. Your township treasurer will accept tax payments most any time he is home by appointment. All you have to do is call Treasurer Eric Schuman at 651-5788 (or email him at sciotatreasurer@sciotatownship.net) to arrange a time and day. Some reminders for you:

- You may pay for multiple parcels on one check
- There is a \$25.00 fee for all returned checks
- Please remember, taxes may be paid between July 1 and September 14, 2005, without penalty
- Taxes paid after September 14, 2005, will have 1% interest added per month to the base amount which **MUST** be paid in full
- Summer taxes are paid to the Township Treasurer until February 28, 2006
- Taxes paid March 1, 2006 and thereafter, **MUST** be paid to the County Treasurer and will include penalty and interest fees

While the treasurer is required by law to keep specific office hours, he will be available to collect your taxes most other times too. It would be best, however to call first to make an appointment so as to be certain of his availability. The required date will be **September 14, 2005 (9am - 5pm)**, or by appointment by calling 651-5788.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Your Sciota township board has started the process, as of this writing, to purchase 4 acres of land directly east of the current township hall on the northeast corner of Bennington and Leland Rds. There will be no increased taxes or assessments regarding this property.

The purpose in the short run is to add parking for residents that come to the hall for meetings or voting since currently, we are technically in violation and the county could close us down for parking on the road. In the long run, the land could be used for building a new township hall or moving our current one to the site and adding on to it.

Bids were solicited from financial institutions in order to obtain the lowest interest rate possible at the time. There were two special board meetings and a regular meeting where this topic was discussed and investigated thoroughly prior to moving ahead with the acquisition. Most township residents in attendance agreed it was a good price and urged the Board to move forward with the purchase.

SUMMER TAX DEFERRMENT

Michigan law states that beginning September 15th, a 1% interest per month may be applied to unpaid summer tax bills. These summer tax bills may, however, be deferred without penalty until February 14th if you qualify.

To qualify you must certify that your gross household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$25,000 (*see note below*) and that you qualify for the deferment provided for in the General Property Tax Act based on one of the following classifications:

1. If you are 62 years of age or older including unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of their death
2. If you are a paraplegic or Quadriplegic
3. If you are an eligible servicepersons, eligible veterans, eligible widows or widowers
4. If you are a blind person
5. If you are a totally and permanently disabled person

Or if you certify that your property, which is classified or used as agricultural real property, and that the gross receipts of agricultural or horticultural operations in the previous year (or average of 3 years) is not less than your household income for the preceding calendar year.

All deferment forms must be filed with the Township Treasurer by September 14, 2005.

The Treasurer has forms available if you do not have them. Simply call 651-5788 and he can mail them to you.

If you have any questions, call your Treasurer at the number on the reverse side of this newsletter or email him at treasurer@sciotatownship.net.

Note- HB4188 raising the qualification income level from \$25,000 to \$35,000 was signed into law becoming Public Act 24 of 2005. There is also SB348 which will increase the cap in future years. This bill is still in the Senate.

ELECTION CONSOLIDATION

The original election consolidation bill passed required all elections to be held on a scheduled election date – in February, May, August or November. All schools in Shiawassee County choose the May election date. Bills are now introduced to change parts of the law – especially as related to school elections. We have to wait to see what the results are. All elections were to be held at the same polling location to help reduce voter confusion about where to vote.

The up-coming Laingsburg Community School special election to be held on **Tuesday, August 2, 2005** will be changing this for Laingsburg school district residents residing in Sciota Township. **You will be voting at the Emergency Services Building on Woodbury Road for this election only.** You also need to contact the Laingsburg City Clerk if you desire an absentee ballot for this election.

LBA HOSTS ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Laingsburg Business Association is hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast on July 30, 2005. Also held on this day in conjunction with the breakfast is the Classic Car Show and a Business Expo to view the wares and services of several local businesses. The event starts at 8:00 am and runs till 11:00 am downtown on Grand River Ave.

The Laingsburg Business Association encourages all residents to go down and enjoy the fun, have a great breakfast, and look at all the old classic cars that are on display as well as checking out some of our member's products and service that will be on display at the Business Expo.

If you need any further information, check out the LBA's website at www.laingsburg.biz or contact Eric Schuman at 651-5788.