

BINGHAM TOWNSHIP

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2023

BINGHAM TOWNSHIP BOARD

Midge Werner, Supervisor
Kathy Morio, Clerk Sandra Grant, Treasurer
Jeff Layman, Trustee Todd Stone, Trustee

BINGHAM TOWNSHIP STAFF

Steve Patmore, Zoning Administrator & Short-Term Rental Administrator, 231.271.2722, ext. 3
zoningadmin@suttonsbaytwp.com
Office hours, 8:30-11:00, Monday-Thursday, Suttons Bay Township Office, 95 W. Fourth Street, Suttons Bay

Angela Friske, Township Assessor, 231-922-6767,
assessor@binghamtwpmi.com

OFFICE HOURS: The township office is staffed Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and by appointment.

Monday: Angela Friske, Assessor, 9 -3

Tuesday: No set hours--Staff drops in to check mail and phone messages.

Wednesday: Sandra Grant, Treasurer, 9-2:45

Thursday: Kim Clark, Administrative Assistant, 9-1
Midge Werner, Supervisor, 1-4, and by appointment.

Friday: Kathy Morio, Clerk, 9-3

2024 MEETING DATES

The Bingham Township Board meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Tentative schedule for 2024 is:

January 15, 2024
February 19, 2024
March 18, 2024
April 15, 2024
May 20, 2024
June 17, 2024 Annual Meeting at 5:30 pm
and Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm
July 15, 2024
August 19, 2024
September 16, 2024
October 21, 2024
November 18, 2024
December 16, 2024

Spring Clean-Up Day: Mark your calendar—this event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 9 a.m. until noon. In the past, clean-up day has been held across from the County Road Commission on Eckerle Road. Watch the township website for more information closer to the date.

A Tribute to Marge Johnson

Marge Johnson served as the Bingham Township Recording Secretary for the Township Board and for the Township Planning Commission. She also served as the recording secretary for the Suttons Bay Bingham Fire Authority. Marge came to the township with years of experience working in township government and that experience was an asset to Bingham. Marge seldom missed meetings and was always set up and ready to go before the meetings started. She was always prompt to get her minutes in, she knew the rules and followed them well. During the COVID pandemic, to keep the business of the township moving forward, meetings were held via Zoom and Marge made the transition easily—and that is not such an easy job having to know the voices and be able to record who was speaking along with what was being said. Marge resigned from her position as Recording Secretary earlier this year and passed away shortly after. Marge was a pleasure to work with and she will be missed. The township board extends its sympathy to Marge's husband, Jim, and her two daughters and grandchildren.

Short-Term Rental Ordinance

The Bingham Township Short-Term Rental permits are issued on an annual basis and must be renewed for 2024 to continue the short-term rental. The 2024 renewal process has begun and 2023 permit holders have until March 1, 2024 to renew in order to hold their spot on the permit list. The renewal application, ordinance, and policies can be reviewed on the township website: <http://www.leelanau.gov/Binghamtwp.asp> or contact Steve Patmore, Zoning Administrator/STR Administrator at zoningadmin@suttonsbaytwp.com, 231.271.2722, ext. 3.

Bingham Township Master Plan Update

The Bingham Township Planning Commission has been working on updating the Bingham Township Master Plan. Progress can be reviewed on the township website. It is anticipated that Public Informational Sessions will be held in Spring 2024 on the Draft Master Plan Update.

Bingham Township Planning & Zoning

Ordinances, Plans, Applications, Forms, Meeting Packets and Agendas for the Bingham Township Planning and Zoning are available on-line on the township website.

<https://www.leelanau.gov/binghamtwpplan.asp>

Bingham Township:

Phone Number: 231.922.6767

Website: <http://www.leelanau.gov/Binghamtwp.asp>

Address: 7171 South Center Highway
Traverse City, MI 49684

Assessing Field Inspection Project & Notice of Assessment Change

Staff from the assessing department has been out the past two summers making site visits and taking updated photos of exterior structures. We will continue to go out for the next few summers. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, you may contact Angela Friske at assessor@binghamtwpmi.com or on Mondays at 231-922-6767. Please review your annual assessment notice sent every February for additional information on this. The notice of assessment change also provides current year assessed and taxable values, estimated increase in property tax, principal residence status, and Board of Review information.

---Angela Friske

From the Board

Supervisor: Construction of an addition to the Bingham Township Hall began this fall. The addition will be a conference room which will be used throughout the year for small meetings and a work area. During elections it will be used by the Clerk for her voting materials and as the area the Absentee Ballots will to be counted. There are restrictions as to what this counting (tabulating) area requires and this room will accommodate those needs. This new construction is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds the township received. The ARPA funds will also assist in the cost of upgrades made to the current facility. The township hall and office area will be re-shingled, new flooring will be installed, a new furnace with air conditioning that will accommodate the new addition are also included in the new construction. General Contractor is Kurtis Graham of Graham Builders LLC.

---Midge Werner

Clerk: The Presidential Primary will be February 27, 2024. Township residents may vote in person on February 27 at the Bingham Township Hall, or choose to vote by absentee ballot, or, since the passage of Proposal 2 in November of 2022, *Early Voting* is another option. All of the townships in Leelanau County have chosen to participate in one *Early Voting* site, which will be at the Leelanau County Government Center. The 9 days of *Early Voting* will run from Saturday, February 17 thru Sunday February 25 from 9 am – 5pm.

---Kathy Morio

Treasurer: Tax bills go out July 1 and December 1. Delinquent bills go to the County Treasurer March 1.

---Sandra Grant

Trustees: The Bingham Township Trustees play an important role on the township board. They are voting members and they represent the Board on commissions and committees. Jeff Layman is the Board's representative on the Planning Commission and Todd Stone represents the board on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Cemetery Updates

- A new water system has been installed at the Bingham Township Cemetery.
- Please remember to remove your artificial flowers at the end of the season in both cemeteries.
- Please contact the township office before planting any tree or shrub, installing any markers, or interring any cremains in our cemeteries.
- Cemetery rules and maps can be reviewed on the township website.

Bingham Township Parks & Recreation Committee

The Committee functions in an advisory role to the Township Board in matters related to the Township parks. We are currently updating the Parks 5 Year Plan. This will enable the Board to seek outside funding for the parks as opportunities become available. As part of the Plan, in the spring we will be sending you a survey, asking for your input about our parks. Please take a moment to answer and return the survey. The Committee is developing a website that will enable you to see park locations, amenities, and activities. You'll also be able to contact us for answers to questions about the parks. Watch for the announcement of the rollout next spring. The Committee is a small group of volunteers working to make our parks great and we're always looking for additional members. If you're interested in serving the Township, contact the Bingham Township office.

---Todd Stone

Suttons Bay-Bingham Fire and Rescue Authority Winter Fire Safety Tips

- Alarms: Ensure working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Space Heaters: Keep them away from flammables and turn them off when not in use.
- Fireplaces & Stoves: Regular maintenance, use screens, and never leave fires unattended.
- Electrical Safety: Check cords, avoid overloading outlets, and use surge protectors.
- Escape Plan: Develop and practice a fire escape plan for your family.

Check out our new web-site for additional safety tips and more (sbbfireandrescue.com).