Supervisor’s Report, April 2024

**Board of Review** was completed on March 12, with little drama. Ten petitions were submitted, and the values for two properties were revised. Most of the inquiries were resolved by letting the petitioners study the maps of the sales study, which took place from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023. It was difficult for property owners to believe that their properties had appreciated by 20% in one year, but that is what the sales figures say. The maps are on display in the Township office meeting room, and also on our website, should anyone like to see them.

**211 Main St.** I have forwarded correspondence from Tom Landa, the attorney who is assigned to us by Tokio Marine, the underwriter for Michigan Par Plan. Tom told us that the initial filing was rejected by the court because it combined the claim of appeal and the complaint together. The court asked them to split the complaint into two separate filings and re-file. Last Friday, March 29th, I gave Tom permission to accept service on my behalf of the new filings.

As of April 5, we have still not been served with the new claim of appeal and complaint. I did hear from Nathan Young, the attorney at Tokio Marine, who is responsible for determining coverage. He said that separating the action into two different lawsuits may affect coverage determination. But we won’t know anything until we are served with what will now be two lawsuits. Brad Wierda is back from vacation and has been in touch with Tom Landa. Tim Cypher has provided Tom with the entire file. I think we’ve done everything we can do right now. Please remember not to comment publicly on this pending litigation. If you have any questions, please speak to me personally.

**Sidewalks:** I forwarded to each of you the response from our engineer, Martin Graf, concerning Clint’s suggestion that we try to connect up the pavement on the north side of M204 while waiting to see if we can find grant funding for the whole block. Engineering estimates indicated that breaking the one section out of the entire block will add $12,000 to just that parcel, which doesn’t seem cost-effective. Martin suggested that we might “bid the isolated part as an optional bid alternate with the other sections in Leland. If the bid price comes in favorably we could accept it. If the bid price comes in too high, the alternate could be rejected and just the Leland sections could be awarded.”

**Zoning Fees:** We’ve all been thinking about inflation a lot lately. I noticed that we have not updated our zoning fees since 2007. We talked about this a few years ago, but took no action. At that point the discussion centered on what neighboring townships were charging. Consulting the CPI calculator, I found that prices have risen 49.7% between 2007 and today. I propose that we simply update those fees for inflation by raising them 50%. The chart in your book was developed using that factor. Tim Cypher has endorsed this change. I did add the fee for boundary line adjustments, which was not on our schedule of fees online.

**MTA Conference:** There is still time to sign up for the MTA Conference April 22-25th at the Grand Traverse Resort. There is also a noon webinar this Wednesday the 10th on “Public Use of Township Property and Facilities.” I will be listening to that one and submitting questions ahead of time.