

February 2019

The Supervisor Speaks

I usually talk about the weather in the first paragraph of my editorial. It has turned into a habit after almost three hundred of these epistles. Suffice it to say that it's cold outside. It appears that February will be cold also. Life seems to stop around here when it gets below zero. What a change from forty years ago! School was delayed for two hours at -30F and cancelled at -40F. Now, if a snowflake is forecast, school is cancelled. We would never have had school during the winter in the 60's and 70's with today's criteria for closure. I understand that times have changed due to parental work habits, but we seem to be turning our children into indoor, game-playing wimps, and ourselves, as well. We're also using electronic games to replace us as child attenders.

As most of you know, the Marenisco Township Board has been discussing and proceeding with the drafting of an ordinance to allow the commercial growth, processing, transportation, and sale of marijuana. Marijuana is now legal in Michigan. All people over 21 can grow, process, possess and consume it in the privacy of their own homes. Even if we wished to do so, we can't prohibit any of this. The township can only enforce the new laws and attempt to regulate manufacture and sale of marijuana within its borders. Over the next few months, an ordinance will be drawn up and a public hearing (or two) will be held to discuss the contents of this ordinance. After the language of the ordinance has been determined, a vote must be held before it can be adopted by the Township Board. It will take the State of Michigan at least a year to issue licenses for commercial operations so we have plenty of time to prepare ourselves for this new era in our history. Let's hope that we have proper foresight and guidance to prepare ourselves properly.

Let's talk about another legal drug and the problems it is causing on our snowmobile trails. Most of our locals don't use the trails anymore because of the number and speed of the machines using the trails. Combine these two factors with the consumption of alcohol and the trails (and lakes) become dangerous and life threatening. Snowmobiles are capable of very high speeds with trails and drivers unable to accommodate these speeds. It is unlikely that snowmobile manufacturers are going to slow down their machines so their drivers need to do so and to limit their alcohol intake. Marenisco Township is the only municipality with any equipment to regulate snowmobile traffic but we can't afford 24/7 enforcement of trail conduct. I am asking everyone who reads this article to encourage snowmobilers to slow down and enjoy the scenery soberly. Don't serve them that extra drink. Be a designated driver to the over imbibing. Encourage safe trail speeds and trail etiquette which doesn't destroy the trail with jackrabbit starts and unnecessary track-spinning on corners (and other areas). If we use some common sense, the injuries and deaths can be greatly reduced. Death and pain are not fun for most people.

There are still at least two more months of cold weather. The frost depth is still increasing so be aware of your water lines and their proneness to freezing. Soon we will be calling people on our water system to let their water run if the frost gets too deep. It is not our responsibility to thaw frozen laterals and pipe thawing is not a cheap problem. We no longer have any equipment to thaw pipes. The possibility of damaging the water customers' electrical services created a huge insurance liability for us. The Township is liable for mains and laterals to the shutoff (in most cases). The customer is liable from shutoff to the entire house. If your pipes freeze, you're looking at \$300 or more just to thaw them-not to mention the cost of replacement of broken pipes, valves, faucets, etc. Be vigilant. It looks as if February will be very cold, at least for a while.

Being a local politician seems to be much easier than a state or federal official because we seem to get along much better on the local level. We have local problems and differences which we manage to settle without conflict, screaming, and threats. On the national level, that's not so. I occasionally go on a rant over that. I'll spare you this month. Stay warm and enjoy life. Nothing is guaranteed. See you next month.

Marenisco Township Board
Regular Meeting
December 17, 2018

The regular meeting of the Marenisco Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Bouvette on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Township Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

Present: Richard Bouvette, Supervisor; Donna Kenney, Clerk; Diane Dean, Treasurer; Kelly Dunbar, Trustee; Dave Hagen, Trustee

Absent: None

Visitors: Bruce Mahler, Al Fairfield, Robert Dorgan, Dean Hand, Jim Bucknell

Agenda: Motion by Donna Kenney supported by Kelly Dunbar to approve the agenda as amended, add #3 under New Business .All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Township Minutes- 11/19 & 12/10
2. Police Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Fire Department Minutes.

Motion by Dave Hagen, supported by Diane Dean to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call vote: Kelly Dunbar-aye, Diane Dean-aye, Richard Bouvette-aye, Dave Hagen-aye, Donna Kenney-aye. All ayes, motion carried.

Approval of Bills: Motion by Kelly Dunbar, supported by Diane Dean, to approve the following bills for payment: Check #'s 23362 - 23385 from the General Fund; #'s 1000-1001 from the Water Fund, #'s 2117 – 2119 from the Sewer Fund, and #'s 1197-1199 from the Library Fund. Roll call vote: Kelly Dunbar-aye, Diane Dean-aye, Richard Bouvette-aye, Dave Hagen-aye, Donna Kenney-aye. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

1. 5 Year Plan Approval: Motion by Kelly Dunbar, supported by Donna Kenney to adopt the 5 Year Recreation Plan. Roll call vote: Kelly Dunbar-aye, Diane Dean-aye, Richard Bouvette-aye, Dave Hagen-aye, Donna Kenney-aye. All ayes, motion carried.
2. Lawsuit: Supervisor Bouvette gave the Board an update on the lawsuit for OCF, the appeal has been filed & may take 4-5 months before oral argument is scheduled (if requested).

3. Washing Station: Learned that the wash station should be operating in May 2019.

New Business:

1. Marijuana Options: Chief Mahler and Attorney Jim Bucknell discussed options regarding the new marijuana laws with the board. No action was taken.
2. Well #3 Work: Well # 3 has been treated with chlorine and sample testing has been done. Waiting for the results.
3. Meeting Times: The Township Board meeting time will be changed from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM effective immediately. They will still be held on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Township Hall.

Adjournment: Motion by Diane Dean, supported by Dave Hagen to adjourn. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

News from the Marenisco Twsp.Historical Society

Our Open House on January 13th was packed with Friends and Family. Thanks to all who came out to enjoy our collections! And of course thanks to our special guests from Algomah Acres!

Also in attendance were several other historical societies that we have been collaborating with this past year. Thanks to the following historical societies for showing their support: Ironwood, Presque Isle, Land O'Lakes and Watersmeet. Plus many other noteworthy historians that attended to view our collections. A reporter from the Daily Globe also attended and wrote up a nice article on the opening.

Now what??!!

We are hoping to increase our membership and volunteer numbers, plan events, request donations of pictures and artifacts related to the history of Marenisco, catalog our current collection....the list goes on. We also heard from many that attended the Open House if we plan on regular open hours. That is definitely under discussion. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.....We are planning our Second Annual Pasty Sale!!!

It is scheduled for March 28th. We will need volunteers to help the day before for prep work and day of assembling, baking and packaging. The order sheet will have a column if you are interested in volunteering in this event. And of course you can just let one of our members know you are available!

Remember, we can be contacted via email at

MareniscoHistorical Society@gmail.com. Also watch for us on



News From Your Library:

Winter is upon us in all its snow, cold and glory. Looking for something to do? Check out your local library. We have audio books, books (hardcover, paperback and large print), movies for the kids and adults, puzzles and games. There will be an ongoing puzzle to work on at the library for anyone who is interested. And, of course, the coffee pot will always be on.

Anyone interested in doing adult coloring, please contact me as we have coloring books, markers and colored pencils for your use. How about a crochet or knitting class? Something to pass the long winter days. Any ideas out there, contact me. I am open to suggestions. Let's get this library hopping!

Book club selection for February is "The Descendants" by Kauai Hart Hemmings. There will be four copies available and the movie. The book club will meet again on Thursday, February 21st at 5 p.m. at the ISTS Library.

On February 9th at 10:30 a.m., Kathe Balcom will hold a Valentine Cookie Decorating Party for the kids. Be sure to pass the word.

Senior Meals Menu for February

Menus are subject to change

Tuesday 5th

❖ Roast Beef-Potato-Vegetable-Salad-Dessert

Wednesday 6th

❖ Chili-Sandwich-Dessert

Wednesday 13th

❖ Pork Chops-Potato-Vegetable-Salad-Dessert

Wednesday 20th

❖ Chicken-Potato-Vegetable-Salad-Dessert

Wednesday 27th

❖ Meatloaf-Baked Potato-Vegetable-Salad-Dessert

Happy
Valentine's
Day

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Library Open 12:00-4:00	2
3	4	5 Library Open 12:00-4:00 Senior Meals	6 Library Open 12:00-4:00 Senior Meals	7	8 Library Open 12:00-4:00	9
10	11 Friends of the Library 5:00	12 Library Open 12:00-4:00 Library Board 3:00	13 Library Open 12:00-4:00 Senior Meals	14	15 Library Open 12:00-4:00	16
17	18 Presidents' Day Board Meeting 6:00	19 Library Open 12:00-4:00	20 Library Open 12:00-4:00 Senior Meals	21	22 Library Open 12:00-4:00	23
24	25	26 Library Open 12:00-4:00	27 Library Open 12:00-4:00 Senior Meals	28		

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