

GLEN ARBOR TOWNSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR – April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

The Township Board is please to prepare this annual report highlighting many of the activities we have been involved in each focused on enhancing the overall quality of life for Glen Arbor landowners, residents, and visitors. The purpose of this annual report is to keep our residents up to date on happenings within the township over the last fiscal year and to provide useful information to all. It has been a pleasure for the Board to serve the Township over the last year through the development of community programming and policies. What follows is a brief report on some of those activities and decisions:

1. TOWN BOARD. The Township started the year with two new officers – Pam Laureto as Clerk and Lee Houtteman as Treasurer. Both Clerk Bonnie Quick and Treasurer Terry Gretzma retired on March 31, 2019 after 33 and 14 years of Township service respectfully. Both Bonnie and Terry served the Township well and will be missed. Pam and Lee have stepped up to their new roles and are delivering in an outstanding manner. If you have not met Pam or Lee, stop by the office and introduce yourself.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE. The Township worked with the Leelanau County Road Commission to have Cheney Road paved and Port Oneida Road repaired.

Aspen Wireless was contracted with for public WIFI improvements, internet improvements at the Fire Station, security camera at the Park, Garden Restrooms, and Boat Ramp.

Netlink Business Solutions was contracted with to replace 3 outdated office computers and the server, to upgrade all computers to windows 10, and to upgrade the office computer security.

In addition to standard preventative maintenance, the Town Hall sump pump and hot water heater were replaced and a drainpipe that runs under the driveway was repaired. And, at the Glen Arbor Garden, the well head was repaired and a restroom heater was replaced.

The Town Board has appointed a Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail subcommittee. With support from the TART trails the Township is exploring a trail connection for the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail between Forest Haven and M-22 at the Homestead. The township is in contract negotiations with Prein and Newhof, an engineering firm out of Grand Rapids, to complete a preliminary design that would connect the two sections of trail.

The Lake Street boat ramp was damaged this summer. It will be repaired and operational for the 2020 summer boating season.

3. PLANNING and ZONING. Over the years there have been amendments added to the zoning ordinances which has led to some conflicting language with the ordinance. The Planning Commission has undertaken an extensive review and rewrite of the Zoning Ordinances to correct those conflicts and bring it up to date.

In the last year the township's Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued 43 land use permits, presided over 4 Zoning Board of Appeals proceedings, issued 2 land divisions, issued 1 property line adjustment, performed 4 site plan reviews, investigated and resolved 2 zoning violations, and made 98 construction inspections. In addition, Tim supplied information to over 500 township residents and others via phone and email.

4. ASSESSOR. Michigan's State Tax Commission conducted had an Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements (AMAR). The audit indicated that Glen Arbor Township met all the requirements and the Michigan Department of Treasury congratulated us for receiving a perfect score on the review. Congratulations goes to our Assessors, Tim and Polly Cairns.

5. GLEN ARBOR PARK. The renovated Glen Arbor Park was opened to great fanfare, receiving awards from two organizations for its quality and beauty. A tennis hitting wall, lighted flagpole, and additional waste receptacles were added to complete the project. The Park Commission organized and successfully ran both Tennis and Pickleball tournaments and visitors and residents alike are enjoying the walking path, exercise equipment, picnic, and playground areas in addition to the various courts.

The Park Commissioners approached the Town Board with a request to change the elected Park Commission to an appointed Park Board. This will allow for staggered terms and greater continuity in leadership at the Park. The Town Board supported this idea and petitions to place the proposed change on the August 4, 2020 ballot were circulated successfully. The Town Board and current Park Commission members strongly support this ballot proposal.

Long-time Park Commissioner, Jim Fowler, resigned and moved south. We were sad to see him leave and wish him well in his new warmer climate.

New lights were installed in the Leelanau School gym and three years of Township gym use were added to the 10-year agreement with the School.

An updated Five-Year Plan was created, with the assistance of Gosling Czubak or Traverse City, to replace the plan that expired this year. A current plan is needed to allow the township to apply for recreation grants from the State of Michigan.

6. TOWNSHIP HALL. Use of the Township Hall and Meeting Room continues to increase with activities being scheduled throughout the week by resident groups interested in fitness, pickleball, basketball, Mah Jong, and Book Club. Local non-profits such as the Glen Arbor Woman's Club, Glen Lake Association, Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce, Sleeping Bear Gateways Council and Glen Arbor Arts Center also use the

spaces for meetings and events. In addition, the Hall was rented for 8 weddings, 3 celebrations, 2 employee meetings, and 7 condominium meetings.

The Board approved Meeting Room and Town Hall Use Agreement forms, Rental Rates, and Use Procedures. A list of Township non-profit groups was approved to use the Hall and/or Meeting Room with the fees waived.

7. GLEN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT. At the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Township hired a new Fire Chief, Bryan Ferguson, for the Glen Lake Fire Department. Chief Ferguson has had an outstanding first year.

A new contract was negotiated between the Firefighters Union and the Township and put in place with the start of the 2020 to 2021 fiscal year.

Below are highlights of the GLFD activities for the year:

- The Department responded to 461 incidents
- For the first time since June of 2017 GLFD is operating with its budgeted number of full-time employees; 16 full-time, 4 part-time and, 6 auxiliary members
- A total of 3,612 training hours were completed by department members
- New firefighting turnout gear was purchased for members
- A physical fitness/wellness program was established for employees
- A new “fuel shed” was constructed by department employees at Station #1
- The exterior of Station #2 was power washed and painted by department employees
- Extensive maintenance was performed on all fire apparatus
- The department taught CPR to over 200 community members

8. CONGRATULATIONS to the Glen Lake Community Schools High School athletic teams. Go Lakers!!!

- The Laker football team went to the State finals and finished as runner up in Division 3
- The Laker girls’ ski team won the Lake Michigan Ski conference championship
- The Laker girls’ basketball team were Conference and District champions and won the first game of the Regional championship when the season was cancelled.
- The Laker boys’ basketball team were Conference champions and won the first two games of the District championship when the season was cancelled.

9. The GLEN LAKE LIBRARY, supported in part by Township taxes, has undergone a major renovation and expansion with floor space nearly doubling. It features a more open floorplan, expanded capacity and seating throughout, and the flexibility to offer more diverse programs. Books and media remain primary resources with an improved children's area and technology integrated throughout. The new building is scheduled to open in July.

10. WEBSITE. The Town Board contracted with Rockwell Art & Design to produce a new, user-friendly website for the township which is now operational. The website can be reached at <https://glenarbortownship.com/>. Find Public Notices, meeting schedules & minutes, activities at the Township Park, information on Taxes and Elections, and much, much more. We encourage you to browse the site.

You may also follow the Township on Facebook and Instagram. Find us at Glen Arbor Township on Facebook and at @glenarbortownship on Instagram.

11. TAX PAYMENT METHODS. In addition to paying your property tax by mail or in person, we are now able to accept on-line tax payments using Point-N-Pay or Credit Card. See our website for details.

12. ELECTIONS. The Township purchased a second ballot tabulator for elections and is now using an Absent Voter Counting Board for processing Absent Voter Ballots separate from the precinct. Both elections this year ran smoothly with an increase in absent voter ballots. The number of absent voter ballots are expected to continue to increase.

13. CENSUS. To ensure an accurate count in the 2020 Census, the Township Supervisor and Clerk met early in the year with a representative from the US Census Bureau. In 2010 the Township was not properly counted and as a result, our share of the State Revenue has been underfunded. Throughout the year we provided residents with information on the Census through notices, website, and Facebook postings. The Town Board urges everyone to complete the 2020 Census.

On behalf of the Township Board,

Peter Van Nort
Supervisor

Pam Laureto
Clerk