

Michael J. DeVries  
Supervisor

Janice K. Hulbert  
Clerk

Chris Afendoulis  
Treasurer



Rusty Merchant  
Trustee

Edward Robinette  
Trustee

James R. Saalfeld  
Trustee

Lee Van Popering  
Trustee

## NEWS BRIEFS – WINTER 2010

### 2010 PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

The 2010 assessment notices will be mailed in February. We encourage all residents to carefully read and review their notice. The SEV (State Equalized Value) is 50% of the market value as determined by the assessor. The TV (Taxable Value) is the amount used to calculate your tax bill and will be equal to or less than the SEV.

### NO GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP TAX INCREASES

Every government has a responsibility to live within its means. When revenues decrease, spending must decrease.

In 2009, Grand Rapids Township experienced a 3.7% decline in revenues from \$3.00 million to \$2.89 million. The 2010 Grand Rapids Township budget assumes an additional 4.5% decline. Falling property values, the inability of the State of Michigan to return our share of the State Sales Tax receipts, and the drop in building permit fees all contribute to the loss of revenue for Grand Rapids Township.

In response, Grand Rapids Township expenditures for 2010 are budgeted to be 12% less than 2008. The savings are primarily due to the reduction of capital projects. During good times we were able to improve our parks, construct recreational trails, and accelerate our local road program. Capital projects are now on hold until revenue growth returns. We also have controlled the expense of employee health insurance by implementing a high deductible plan supported by health savings accounts for our 11 full time employees. Through fiscally responsible policies, the Township continues to levy one of the lowest property tax millage rates (1.5995) of any Kent County municipality.

Grand Rapids Township believes in the philosophy of continuous improvement. Each day we search for better ways to provide the quality service that local government is responsible for: assessing, elections, tax collections, police, fire, emergency medical services, land use and local road maintenance.

We remain optimistic about the future but for the time being it's a "back to basics" budget without new initiatives.

### COMING SOON

The Township replaced the 20-year-old phone system and will soon implement a direct dial feature to improve this service for our residents. We will be sending the directory with your assessment notice in February. The new phone system will save the expense of replacing one of our retiring administrative assistants.

*Have a Meaningful and Happy New Year!*

Michael J. DeVries, Supervisor