

MICHAEL J. DeVRIES  
SUPERVISOR

EDWARD J. ROBINETTE  
CLERK

DAVID A. VAN DYKE  
TREASURER



RUSTY MERCHANT  
TRUSTEE  
DAVID M. PIERANGELI  
TRUSTEE  
ROBERT W. ROTH  
TRUSTEE  
LEE VANPOPERING  
TRUSTEE

**NEWS BRIEF  
- SUMMER 2015 -**

**GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR 2015**

The Grand Rapids Township Board of Trustees voted to maintain the 1.5995 mil property tax rate that will be included on your 2015 December tax statement. It is itemized on the tax bill in 2 parts; .75 mils for general operations of the Township and .8495 mils for Public Safety Services of Police, Fire and EMS. This millage rate has remained unchanged since 2001.

A \$200,000 home with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay Grand Rapids Charter Township \$75.00 for government operation and \$84.95 for Public Safety Services for an annual total of \$159.95. This equates to approximately 5.5% of your total annual property tax bill.

**PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES IN GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP**

The protection of our residents and visitors is our highest priority and we work hard to provide a high quality of Public Safety Services.

Public Safety Services in Grand Rapids Township are divided into three distinct categories; Policing, Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Collectively these services are paid with funds from both a Public Safety Millage and general fund dollars. The annual expense for 2015 is budgeted at \$1,328,055 or 44% of Grand Rapids Township annual revenues.

Through a collaborative partnership between Grand Rapids Charter Township, Ada Township and Cascade Township an East Precinct was established in 2002 under contract with the Kent County Sheriff Department. The East Precinct provides effective and efficient service to the residents, businesses, and visitors in all three Townships. The East Precinct is funded by the Sheriff Department and the three Townships through a formula based on a percentage of the utilization of Precinct resources.

Fire Services are provided by full time and paid on call personnel. The Township's Fire Department staff is experienced and well trained. Department personnel are equipped with the apparatus and training necessary to provide appropriate response to fire and accident calls. Fire Department response originates from the main station located at 1836 East Beltline Avenue. The main station is staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week with full time and paid on call personnel. Our Fire Department staff responds to approximately 400 calls annually; 30% are fire alarms, 20% accident related, 8% medical assists, 2% structure fires, and the remaining 40% are miscellaneous service calls.

Emergency Medical Service is a contracted service provided by Rockford Ambulance. The service provides an ambulance that is stationed at the Forest Hills Fire Station which is staffed by a paramedic and an emergency medical technician 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is a medical first response vehicle stationed at the Whispering Pines Fire Station, 14 hours a day 7 days a week, staffed by an emergency medical technician. The EMS team responds to over 1,675 calls for service each year with 44% of the calls being of the most serious Med 1 classification. The vast majority of calls for medical responses occur within 1.5 miles of the Forest Hills Fire Station, located at Fulton Street and Crahen Avenue.

Grand Rapids Township remains committed to our primary responsibilities: provide essential services of Police, Fire and EMS; perform our constitutional duties of election administration, assessment of property and property tax collection; ensure that we promote appropriate land use regulations; support regional economic development; and provide for parks, open space and recreational trails.

Should you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm  
P: (616) 361-7391  
F: (616) 361-6620  
1836 East Beltline Ave NE  
Grand Rapids MI 49525

Best Regards,  
Michael J. DeVries  
Supervisor  
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**QUICK NOTES...**

STREET LIGHT NOT WORKING?  
POT HOLE IN THE STREET?  
Drainage Issues?  
Report them online from the GRT website  
[www.grandrapidstwp.org](http://www.grandrapidstwp.org)