

# Community Newsletter

Summer 2019

Oscoda Township Board of Trustees:

Supervisor - Aaron Weed

Clerk - John Nordeen

Treasurer - Jaimie McGuire

Trustees - Tim Cummings, Jim Baier,

William Palmer & Martin Gayeski

## Oscoda Township's MISSION and VISION Statement

**Vision:** By 2028, Oscoda Township will be a more thriving, safe, and energetic community with an active inter-generational economy. It will fully use and modernize its infrastructure and maximize its resources, both financial and natural, to create a local economy that serves its residents. Oscoda Township will be a preferred place for residents, businesses, and tourists to invest and be a part of. In partnership with neighboring communities, it will work for the betterment of the region.

**Mission:** The Charter Township of Oscoda is the government entity responsible for creating the environment to improve the quality of life for its residents and opportunities for its businesses to thrive. It creates and maintains the organizational and physical infrastructure of the community to engage residents and help its businesses continually adjust to the ever-changing economic climate. The Township is a steward of the public trust, administrator of responsive and efficient government, and a champion of transparency that works to serve and protect its citizens.

Create an environment where residents, development, and businesses can be successful

Create more housing options for existing and prospective residents

Preserve, integrate, and connect natural resources for residents and tourists

Market the community to prospective businesses, residents, and tourists

Further promote redevelopment of airport and surrounding property

Grow the number of residents, businesses, tourists, and developers in the township

Maintain and improve township-owned infrastructure

# OSCODA TOWNSHIP

*Naturally...*



## Police Department New Hire

On 1/25/2019, Sheila Palmer, a lifetime resident of Oscoda, was hired as a Police Officer for the Oscoda Township Police Department. Officer Palmer was previously employed by the Alcona County Sheriff Department for 2 ½ years before coming to the Oscoda Police Dept.



Robert J. Parks Library

6010 Skeel

Oscoda MI 48750

(989) 739 9581



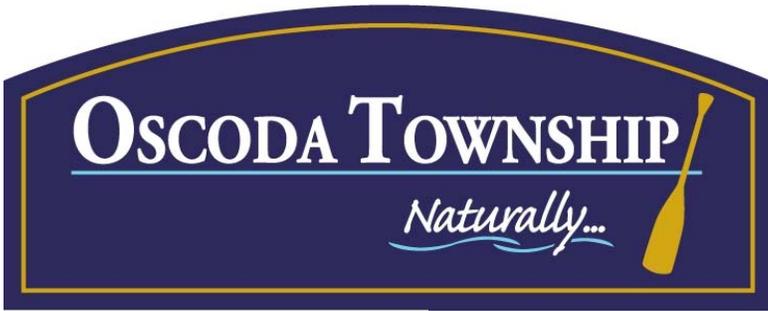
**Just a reminder that there will be a special election held this year, August 6th for the following two ballot issues:**

### ROAD MAINTENANCE

"The Charter Township of Oscoda imposes an increase of up to 1.75 mills (\$1.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed in Article 9 Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution, and levy it for six (6) years, being from 2020 through 2025 inclusive, commencing on the ----1st day of November, 2019, for purposes of road maintenance, repairs and improvements, with a 1.75 mill increase raising an estimated \$520,250 in the first year the millage is levied."

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

"The Charter Township of Oscoda imposes an increase of up to .90 mills (\$.90 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed in Article 9 Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution, and levy it for six (6) years, being from 2020 through 2025 inclusive, commencing on the 1st day of November, 2020, for purposes of operation and maintenance of the Township Fire Department, inclusive of keeping the current fire equipment up to date and adequate to meet all reasonable Township needs, with a .90 mill increase raising an estimated \$267,557 in the first year the millage is levied."



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## Supervisor's Corner

by Aaron Weed

### Supervisor's Corner

Oscoda Township is the 55th geographically largest township out of 1,240 townships in Michigan. Within our Township are many communities both rural and urban. Township governance has responsibilities to all of these communities, not just portions of the communities, but rather as a collective whole. To accomplish this and make things better for the community, it is sometimes necessary to move beyond the past and build for the future. One thing I have conveyed to people over the last few years is that it is necessary to keep oneself relevant. Oscoda Township must stay relevant to make community progression. Stagnation is not the answer. We live in a new age with different life expectations than 30 years ago. We must now look forward to the future with new goals, new objectives, and policies that will move our collective community forward to a bright future that is relevant for decades to come.



We have been restructuring our Township to bring cohesiveness to the entire Township, to keep us relevant and look towards the future. New and revised processes are being established, laws will be reviewed, increased training for all councils, and increased customer service is being implemented in some areas. Ordinances are being reviewed and rewritten and some are even being removed to keep them relevant to the times and protect our neighborhoods. New ordinances are being written to ensure growth and development and secure our community for the future. The Downtown Development Authority has been dissolved and a new board is being created to develop a cohesive economic strategy for the entire township, not just select areas that have remained unchanged for years.

Great things are on the way: the bike path is making progress this year, the township is developing plans to improve parks, new and exciting events will occur this year and in the future. Interest has been shown for creating river trails, expanded uses for our waterways and natural resources, economic and recreational developers are starting to look at us.

The State and USDA have brought us millions of dollars to improve infrastructure, counter contamination, and comprehensive plans are being developed to refurbish our neglected and aging underground infrastructure. Hard work is needed for improving emergency services, County services, to protect our community, and improve our County-owned roads. We must hold other agencies accountable, and outdated and crumbling Townships structures need to be removed and replaced with viable and efficient facilities.

It hasn't been easy over the last two years to implement change, but things are changing. Most importantly, it takes members of our community to keep this momentum moving forward. It is members of the community like you who volunteered to sit on Boards and committees to help make these changes and keep us relevant: Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Senior Building Commission, Board of Review, Oscoda Airport Authority, Local Development Financing Authority, and the soon to be established Economic Development Committee. In addition, our local service clubs, Restoration and Advisory Board, and charities bring a big boost to our community through their hard work and dedication. The volunteers of these Boards, clubs, and charities have put aside a portion of their personal lives to help our community.

We need you to keep the momentum going! We must remain relevant! One statement I've heard over the years is that Oscoda has a lot of potential. It is time to take action and turn potential into reality. I say, "don't let apathy continue," and "don't accept mediocrity." The foundation of progress has now been created, but we need you involved in the community to continue to make your community a better place. Changes won't happen quickly, easily, or cheaply; I can tell you firsthand how hard it is, but it can happen. Help keep us relevant today and into the future by applying your involvement and dedication to the community. Help your community progress into the decades to come!

**"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."**

Visit us at [www.OscodaTownshipMi.gov](http://www.OscodaTownshipMi.gov) or find us on Facebook (Oscoda Charter Township) & Watch live Township Board meetings on YouTube!