

TOWNSHIP WIDE BROADBAND INTERNET

I am still moving forward in obtaining Township wide wireless Internet with the focus on a service that will be of an affordable cost to all Township residents.

I am now working with Airlink on a proposal for the Township. This is a smaller company and the service would be tailored to our Township. The decision to move forward on our own and not with the Countywide system was based on time. The county movement is much slower years before we would see service. The work we are doing with Airlink is projected to be only months before we could receive service.

The Township is working on providing a tower to be placed at the Township Hall site. We are pursuing soil borings and site designs at this time. Also a contract is being finalized with the company. The main points of the contract are high speed and an affordable cost.

It will continue to take a lot of effort and coordination to bring this service to the Township but it will be well worth it in the end. I have had many requests for the service and positive reaction from many residents. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the state this year is 3.7%. Taxable Values on properties will increase by that amount for taxing purposes next year. **Taxable Value** is the basis for your property taxes. This will be calculated using the inflation rate of 1.037 for the 2006-capped value. Properties that have been uncapped as a result of a sale and properties for which there is new construction will see a higher increase in the taxable value. The **assessed value**, however, is **not** the value that is multiplied by the millage rate to establish taxes. Large increases in assessed value will **not** mean significant increases in taxable value unless your property was uncapped due to a transfer in 2005 or had new construction. Your change notice will be sent out in February 2007.

Please review your change notice when you receive it and if you have questions or concerns please contact me at the Township office. Remember, it is **taxable** value that is used to compute tax bills.

Homestead Exemption is also indicated on the change notice. You should check your notice at the center bottom for the number that can range from 0 to 100%. To receive 100% property exemption you must **own and occupy** your residence. All homeowners for newly constructed homes must file an exemption form with their local government and occupy the home by May 1st to receive the exemption. The forms are available at the Township office. If you believe yours is incorrect, please contact the office immediately.

Township Website

We are continuing to expand and improve our township website. Information is added and updated on a weekly basis. We are pleased to provide township board meeting minutes online available with a search engine to facilitate accessing specific topics, board and commission agendas, current tax and assessing information with links to the Ingham County website, township and cemetery services, committee meeting updates, downloadable zoning/ordinance applications; the Township Zoning Ordinance, and the Williamston Community calendar. Please contact the township with suggestions to advance the development of the website for the benefit of the community.